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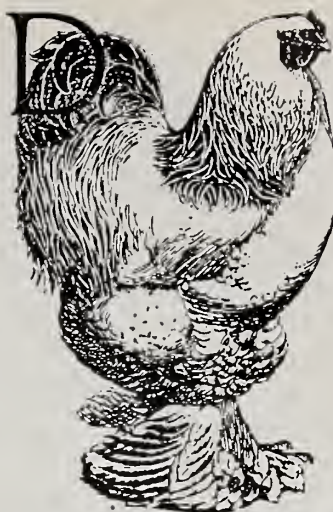
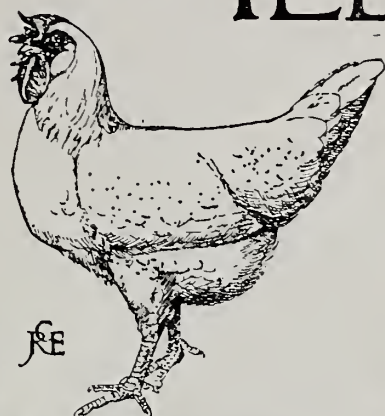


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WHITE MAGYAR FOWLS AT THE POULTRY SCHOOL, GODOLLO, HUNGARY.



# THE ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD



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## DIARY OF THE MONTH.

### EDITORIAL NOTICES.

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*The Editor will be glad to hear from readers on any Poultry Topics, and all Queries addressed to the paper will be answered by experts in the several departments. The desire is to help those who are in difficulty regarding the management of their poultry, and accordingly no charge for answering such queries is made.*

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### Official Smiles.

Earl Carrington, President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, has always an encouraging word to say, and a sympathetic manner of expressing his interest, which is wide and varied, in rural questions. He was in his most happy frame of mind at the opening of the Small Holdings Section of the Festival of Empire last month. The prominent position which poultry occupies in that interesting display, combined with recognition of the fact that if small holdings are to be successful in this country poultry must be encouraged, led his lordship to observations which cannot fail to have a wide influence. The ten shillings per week which he said could be made out of poultry is no exaggeration, and it would mean a great deal in the family budget. But to accomplish thus much it is not only necessary to provide the opportunity, but to afford the stimulus by wider provision of education, by dissemination of realised knowledge, and by organisation in respect to disposal of produce. To Lord Carrington we owe the Small Holdings and Allotments Act. He has expressed his interest in the succeeding steps, and the time has come to give them effect. Something is being done. The task is bigger than many people imagine, but it has got to be accomplished. The work done in former years has but laid the foundations. The superstructure has yet to be erected. Education of a practical nature, with which must be included experimental work, is where we are most deficient. For that purpose money is now available. Poultry-keepers and others should see to it that they obtain their fair share.



### Ware Excess!

Discussions as to what is known as the Philo System of Poultry-Keeping form a feature of the weekly Press at the present time, stimulated by the display made at the Festival of Empire. Advocates and opponents of this method are having their say. As is usual in such cases, claims are put forth in the former which will require a great amount of evidence not yet forthcoming to justify. On the other hand, conservative adherence to old ways often leads to delay in recognition of progression. What we should seek to maintain is an open mind, ready to consider projects and proposals, but demanding that any new system shall be willing to submit to the fullest and most complete investigation before it is accepted. "One swallow does not make a summer," and because one man, who probably attends to detail in a way impossible to others, regardless of economics, accomplishes his purpose, it by no means justifies general adoption of the same.

### More Particulars Needed.

In earlier days inventors of incubators frequently were able to achieve satisfactory results; but the proof was, whether the ordinary poultry-keeper could do the same. It was there the failure came. Not until Mr. Hearson placed a machine on the market which could be operated successfully by the inexpert did artificial incubation become a practical success. This Philo system, as applied to laying hens, is intensive with a vengeance. We hear of a thousand birds to the acre. It is possible that, rightly applied, and with careful management, several hundreds may be kept to the acre, provided that the hens are merely to be layers; but if it is intended to use fowls kept under such conditions as breeding stock, degeneracy must result. These remarks do not apply to fireless brooders and to chicken rearing, for which there is much more to be said. Cost of equipment is a serious part of the problem. That itself imposes limitations which must be taken into account. The question of labour is also of supreme importance.

### War on Foxes.

The action of the Southdown Hunt, recorded by the joint committee of the three Central Poultry Societies, has, as might be expected, brought about a condition of affairs which everyone must regret. So far as the area covered by that Hunt is concerned we are now in a state of war. The truce brought about by the action of those who sought to avoid any interference with legitimate sport,

but were determined that the interests of poultry-keepers should be defended, and that the extension of the poultry industry should not be checked by arbitrary and unfair action on the part of devotees of fox-hunting, has, in this case, failed of its purpose. We are evidently on the eve of strong action, which can only embitter relationships in rural districts. The time has come, therefore, when the question should be taken up by central authorities in order to defend an industry of vast importance to the country at large. We suggest, therefore, that the joint committee should arrange a deputation, fully representative even of the extremist section of poultry-keepers, to the President of the Board of Agriculture, and that, on the other hand, the Masters of Foxhounds' Association should be called upon to expel any Hunt which refuses to loyally abide by the arrangement made between it and the joint committee. The weakness of that arrangement was the absence of authoritative determination on the part of the association to deal with recalcitrant Hunts. Such can no longer continue.

### The German Poultry Industry.

Announcement has been made that the honorary secretary of the National Poultry Organisation Society has returned from his second visit to Germany, undertaken with the object of making observations for a report on the poultry industry in that country, which, it is stated, will be issued in the early autumn. It will be remembered that an interim report was issued last January. That dealt with the growing consumption of eggs and poultry in Germany, to which is largely due the reduction of imports from abroad and enhancement of prices. The effect has been to emphasise the importance of redoubled efforts for an increased home production in order to prepare for changes which are impending, and which, in the absence of greater home supplies, may be very serious indeed. In this second tour Mr. Brown has visited the sections of Germany not covered previously, and his two journeys have covered the greater part of the country from Hamburg to Munich. His report will be anticipated with interest, continuing the valuable series begun in 1906 by that on America, succeeded by similar records as to Denmark and Sweden and Belgium.

### Irish Prospects.

Another conference has recently been held in Dublin, this time dealing with industrial questions in general and agriculture in particular. An address was given by the Right



Hon. T. W. Russell, Vice-President of the Irish Department, in which he said, respecting poultry-keeping: "The Irish poultry population in 1910 was a little over 24,000,000. As a result Ireland received in respect of exports £2,744,133 for eggs, £927,035 for poultry, and £32,460 for feathers; total, £3,703,627. He saw no reason why this export should not be at least doubled. They had first to get the right eggs for hatching, and then to weed out all that was defective in the birds hatched. This involved the keeping of records, but everything that is worth anything is troublesome. If they were to build up a great poultry industry in Ireland they would have to get rid of the notion that fowls can thrive anywhere and live upon anything. With very little effort he considered that £2,000,000 a year might be added in a very short time to the national income in connection with the poultry industry."

#### Chemical Inexactitudes.

Dr. Mary E. Pennington, of the Bureau of Agriculture, has been saying that "eggs laid in the cool days of spring and properly put away in storage are better than the eggs freshly laid in the hot weather and rushed to the city from the nest," which may be true if the nest were a thousand miles from the city; but for short-distance transit such a statement is incorrect. It is possible that chemical tests in the laboratory cannot discern the difference between one and the other; but the consumer can, and it will take a long time to persuade the householder that anything can equal the new-laid egg—when he or she can get it. There is one factor which chemists are prone to ignore—namely, palatability—and that is the supreme test. Moreover, tests made are generally unfair. The cold storage egg is often taken from the cool room direct to the laboratory bench, whereas it ought to receive the same treatment as would be the case under ordinary conditions of trade, to which the new-laid is subjected. That an egg laid in hot weather deteriorates more rapidly than one produced at other seasons is unquestionable, but given expeditious methods of marketing it need not fear its stored rival.

#### Promotion of Poultry-Keeping.

We reproduce this month another paper read at the recent Poultry Conference in Dublin dealing with the future developments of the poultry industry. It is unnecessary to make any apologies for so doing, as the questions herein raised are of supreme importance, indicating to some extent the lines upon which

further progress should be made. Every step forward reveals greater possibilities than known before, and if poultry-keeping is to advance adequately to the national needs and to its opportunities there must be concentration of thought as to the way in which our efforts should tend. One of the dangers to be avoided is taking too parochial a view of the work, which should be constructive in its highest sense. To this end it is essential that the experience of the past, together with the requirements of the future, shall be kept steadily in view. The paper referred to, therefore, is helpful in this direction, not that it covers the entire ground, but several directions are clearly indicated. To accomplish such a purpose, as stated in the paper, "education, production, organisation, are equally important, and must march side by side."

#### The Economics of Overcrowding.

Theoretically everyone condemns overcrowding, but in practice large numbers of poultry-keepers are guilty of what is an economic mistake. The difficulty is to define what is overcrowding. We hear of thousands of fowls kept within one building, or of hundreds of hens upon a single acre of land. Much may be done by efficient management to minimise the risks, to delay the day of reckoning, but that the latter comes experience abundantly testifies. There is, however, a further aspect of this question—namely, whether overcrowding is profitable, whether under such conditions returns can be maintained. An interesting and suggestive statement is made in *Farm Poultry* respecting the famous duck plant of Messrs. Weber Bros. at Wrentham, Mass. Planning for a light year in production of ducks,

They went to work on the general principle of making a proportionate reduction at every stage of operations. Where they had been keeping fifty breeders (the usual number) in a pen they reduced to thirty-five. Where they had been putting fifty young ducklings (the usual number) in a compartment of a nursery brooder they reduced to thirty-five. But instead of reducing their output they actually increased it. The old ducks laid better. The eggs hatched better. The ducklings lived and grew better. The result was that where usually they would have out of a lot of fifty ducklings at a killing age an average of ten or twelve not ready to kill with the rest, this year they had but one or two. That is, the ducks grew uniformly, and were practically all marketable at the appropriate age. As a result, the standard size of flock has been reduced.

That there is a profitable limit is evident to all. We must endeavour to find it.

## PUBLIC versus PRIVATE BREEDING CENTRES.

By EDWARD BROWN, F.L.S.

*"Last year there were 644 Stations from which hen and duck eggs were distributed, while there were 192 goose stations and 618 turkey stations, and 66,000 sittings of eggs were sent out."*



THE above quotation is made from the paper submitted to the Dublin Poultry Conference by Professor J. R. Campbell, B.Sc., and records a remarkable work, which has largely contributed to the wonderful development of the poultry industry in Ireland, the end of which is by no means reached. The permeation of pure-bred stock, carefully selected for economical qualities throughout the country, continued as it has been for several years, has led to improvements that could not otherwise have been attained within the time during which these efforts have been put forth for extension of this truly national industry. The question is often asked, "Why has not a similar system been adopted in other parts of the United Kingdom?" and it is my present purpose to attempt a reply, as well as to consider whether such is either necessary or desirable.

To the writer the success of the Irish scheme here referred to is of special interest. In the year 1888 I made an inquiry into the poultry industry of Ireland on behalf of the *Weekly Freeman*, of Dublin, the result of which observations were first published in that newspaper, and afterwards reproduced in handbooks having a wide distribution. In one of these the following recommendations were made in the direction of improvement:

1. Distributing eggs and fowls of improved breeds amongst the cottagers and small farmers.
2. Teaching right methods of management.
3. Showing the importance of cleanliness and freshness in marketing eggs, and the increased price which can be obtained for larger, well-fed fowls.
4. Inaugurating small local shows, to stimulate the improvement of the fowls, and educating the people as to the best breeds to adopt.
5. Seeking better markets for the produce, and as far as possible bringing the poultry-keepers into touch with the customers.

In 1891 the Irish Land Commissioners—for there was no Department of Agriculture in

those days—invited me to submit a scheme for the improvement of poultry in the congested districts, from which report (dated September 8, 1891) I may be permitted to make two brief extracts:

It is most important that the present stocks be replaced by fowls suited to the needs and conditions of each district. To do this most effectively and with the greatest rapidity would be to distribute pens of fowls, consisting of a cock and three hens, but that would be somewhat costly. It might, however, be adopted in a percentage of cases, and with those who would undertake to exchange eggs from them with their neighbours, such as trustworthy farmers.

The most effective method would be by the establishment of centres where fowls of the selected varieties could be bred for distribution. These might also be used as training schools where demonstrations of various sections of poultry culture, with experiments in development, could be carried on.

Recommendations were at the same time made in respect to ducks, geese, and turkeys. The plan here recommended, modified to the extent that distribution has mainly been of eggs, has been largely responsible for the improvement and extension of poultry-keeping in Ireland. But the same system has since been adopted elsewhere. As pointed out in my "Report on the Poultry Industry in Denmark and Sweden," it is from the breeding centres established in various parts of Denmark that the country has been permeated with carefully selected and highly prolific strains of fowls. The same system is a leading feature in the programme adopted by the German agricultural authorities for improvement of poultry throughout the Empire, as will be shown in my complete Report on that country which I am now engaged in writing. Also, an integral part of the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Poultry-Breeding in Scotland was the establishment of breeding centres in the Highlands and Islands, and these are now being rapidly developed. A similar plan is being followed in other countries and British Colonies, but we may fairly claim that Ire-



land led the way. My own share in that work has been comparatively small. The credit must be given to those who clothed the skeleton suggestion made and gave it actuality, organising and administering it upon practical lines.

In dealing with such questions as that before us the conditions of every country must be taken into consideration. What may be neces-

sary with fresh hope and to renewed effort. Fortunately these facts were recognised. Probably public money has never been expended to better purpose. The change which has come over the face of Ireland since the time named is remarkable. It is startling indeed to those who are able to compare the two periods.

So far as Great Britain is concerned, ex-



A BREEDING CENTRE AT CULLYBACKEY, IRELAND.

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The above photograph, together with a description of the Farm, appeared in the "I.P.R." for August, 1909.

sary in one is frequently unsuitable or not required in another. The profound impression made upon my mind in the Irish inquiry of 1888 was the terrible impoverishment of the people and their inability in many districts to expend even a few pence upon the improvement of their poultry. Life was too hard and they were too poor to do much to help themselves. Here and there a few might be found who could do a little in the way of self-help, but so far as the great mass of the people were concerned, unless the central authorities came to their assistance and a general scheme was adopted capable of application all over the country, progression must be very small indeed. Under such circumstances, the only chance was the introduction of some method by which even the very poorest might be aided and inspired

cepting the congested districts of Scotland—a term which is absolutely misleading, as these could maintain several fold the present population—by which is meant the Highlands and Islands, there has not been within my lifetime any area in which the conditions were in any sense comparable with those met with in Ireland twenty years ago. I do not think that during the period named there has been any district in England, Wales, Southern and Eastern Scotland where the farmers and others were unable, if they so desired, to help themselves by reason of want of means. They could afford to bring about at their own cost such improvement of stock and methods as were required. The difficulty was never in that direction. It was rather indifference, or antagonism, or non-realisation of the fact that



poultry were capable of profitable cultivation, and that fowls were worthy their practical attention. Where, as is always the case, any of the rural population were very poor, there were residents near at hand who could afford, and felt it their duty to, to assist by distribution of birds without making any demand upon public funds. Such was not the case in the greater part of Ireland, for the private residents were often nearly as impoverished as the peasants. As a strong individualist, a believer in the development of self-reliance, I could not, under such circumstances, feel justified in advocating methods that were absolutely essential in the sister country. Our main duty was by education and publicity to stimulate individual effort. The result has more than justified such policy. Much remains to be done; but those who have been concerned in the advocacy of this great national development may fairly congratulate themselves that their labour has not been in vain.

There is, however, another factor which is of considerable importance—namely, that in nearly almost every section of Britain south of the Grampians there have been, and are, a large number of private poultry-breeders who have taken a great share in the improvement of the economic races of domestic poultry, and from whom those desirous of buying stock or eggs could obtain what they desired at reasonable prices. This internal trade has grown enormously of late years, but for fifty or sixty years has had a vast influence. At one time such breeders were mainly fanciers, but, for reasons upon which it is unnecessary to enlarge in the present connection, such is no longer the case. Farmers do not now look to exhibitors for stock, as they are able to buy from specialist breeders who give greater weight to the development of the practical qualities. Given, therefore, the ability to buy, the opportunity was at hand. Under such circumstances there was not the same need to set up public or subsidised breeding centres as in Ireland. To do so would have been unwarrantable, and an interference with private enterprise that ought never to take place where individual breeders are already on the field. In support of this view, I was specially interested in Germany to learn that the setting up of breeding stations, such as that at Crollwitz, described by Herr Felix Albrecht in the June ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD (Vol. III., p. 397), has had the effect of checking the development of private breeding plants in that country, as the prices charged for stock and eggs are too low to make the business remunerative. In my judgment that is not a healthy condition of affairs in a country where

farmers and others are able to pay adequately for what they require, however essential under other conditions such as those already referred to. I should strongly oppose proposals which would bring about the same provision here, and scarcely think attempts will be made in that direction.

At the same time, we must be prepared to deal with the question on broad lines, and not be fettered by undue exaltation of personal interests. It is more than probable that in the near future every county in Britain will have its demonstration farm, either in connection with Agricultural Colleges or County Education Committees, on which poultry will occupy a prominent place. One of the objects in connection with these will be to show the best type of fowls, to prove by breeding what can be done to improve the egg and flesh properties, to which end a public body may expend money in experiments that the private breeder, who is out for a living, would not feel justifiable in his own operations. Where, as a result, stock is obtained that is distinctly superior to the general run, it is to the benefit of the community as a whole that such should be disseminated throughout the area served. To market all the produce, whether eggs or poultry, in the usual manner, would be wasteful in the extreme, and do much to check that improvement we all desire. I lay stress upon this aspect of the case, because in some counties the establishment of poultry plants by the Education Committees as teaching and demonstration centres has been successfully opposed, on the ground that these would compete with private individuals in the sale of stock birds and eggs for hatching. That is a narrow view to take; it is individualism run mad. What is perfectly reasonable is to require that such farms shall be on a moderate scale, that educational and experimental work shall be the primary consideration, but that the chickens of a suitable nature hatched, or eggs from selected and proved stock, shall be disposed of at fair, not cut, prices, and thus help in securing that advancement of productiveness we are all striving to attain. Under such arrangements the private breeder would not be subject to unfair competition from public funds to which he has to contribute. On the contrary, he would be aided in his business. Whatever tends to widen and encourage the poultry industry and adds to its profitability increases demand and benefits all engaged in it.

One advantage which the publicly supported and conducted breeding station has over the private breeder is that the question of profit is not of the same importance. No place which is run for education and experiment can be



successfully conducted on commercial lines, and to sacrifice these to the claims of the annual balance-sheet is to drop the substance for the shadow. Hence the records as to results achieved at such breeding stations ought to be absolutely reliable, revealing the entire facts of the case, whether favourable or unfavourable. Any official at such a place who published what was untrue, directly by cooked records or *suppressio veri*, would deserve to be cashiered at a moment's notice. I am not suggesting that private poultry-keepers as a

no plan has been devised which will give the guarantee that should be forthcoming to place the individual poultry-breeder on an equality in this direction with the public breeding centre. Laying competitions have exerted a wide-reaching influence, and done much to stimulate attention to possibilities in productiveness; but hitherto these have been limited to four or six birds. They have shown, however, that selection can be made of layers capable of high records. What we now should seek to secure is that such competitions shall be on a larger



GROUP OF YEARLING WHITE LEGHORNS AT A DANISH BREEDING CENTRE  
AT RISERUP, DENMARK.

[Copyright.]

class make false statements as to the merits of their birds, though there is good reason to suppose that they are not all immaculate. It is not so much the publication of records that are actually incorrect as of the absence of such records and the dissemination of generalities which mislead. A breeder may have one pen of carefully selected birds making an average of 200 eggs per annum, the announcement of which may be put in such a way as to suggest, without stating that to be the case, his entire flock is of equal merit. The question is full of difficulties. Up to the present

scale—say, with twenty or twenty-five pullets. That would be expensive, and can only be accomplished if public money is available. But it would be worth the cost.

I submit, therefore, that the establishment of publicly maintained breeding centres, except in the limited direction already indicated, is not necessary in England and Wales, or in Southern and Eastern Scotland, as the ground is fully occupied by private enterprise; but that an attempt be made to provide the guarantee required as a guide to which are the best in point of productiveness.



## THE LAST OF THE OLD HIGGLERS.

By HERBERT ATKINSON.

THERE died last year in Wallingford Union the last of the old higgles, as they were called, one John Palmer, who was over eighty years of age, and who had lived all his life at the village of Roke, in Oxfordshire. He had for over fifty years journeyed once every week from his home to London and back, a distance of about fifty miles, with his horse and cart. He always travelled at a foot pace, selling his eggs and poultry which he bought from the farmers round. I first remember him when I was a boy in the early seventies. His father was then alive—an old man with white hair, a face like a ripe apple, and a long, white smock frock, bowing to the ground if he spoke to a lady with all the courtesy of a former age. Of the two sons, Henry, a tall, gaunt individual with a large nose, in a brown smock frock and black dudly hat, attended to the home work and little farm; while John, a tall, stout man, nearly always in his shirt-sleeves, whatever the weather, with short trousers, showing some four inches of grey worsted stocking above his ankle-boots, did all the trading and journeyed to London. Their sister Susan, a feminine edition of Henry, kept house, helped with the fattening and plucking the poultry for market, and many other things. For over half a century John Palmer set the price of eggs in this district, and the local shopkeepers always went by his prices. Going round with his cart he collected his eggs and poultry from all the neighbouring farms on Monday and Tuesday, sorting and packing late into Tuesday night. Wednesday mornings, at four o'clock in summer and five in winter, saw him starting with his large covered van, and later, when his trade decreased, his yellow tilted cart. Wednesday nights he stopped at Maidenhead, trading on the way, and Thursday night found him at the "Old Bell" in Holborn, where he always slept in the stable beside his horse in case it should be stolen. He supplied several of the best West-End restaurants with eggs and poultry, and many private customers. Friday he began his return journey, reaching home at nine or ten o'clock on Saturday evening. They were an eccentric family, and John especially was a well-known character. All of them talked as if they were hailing a ship in a gale of wind. John would arrive with his cart and boy on Monday for the eggs. "How d'ye do, sir, how do? Heggs is fourteen to-day," and, the eggs being produced, he proceeded to count them into his basket. "Six and six is twelve,

and two is *foorteen*." Here he put one aside to mark a shillingsworth. He would immediately spot a doubtful egg, and, turning it



JOHN PALMER.

An original drawing by Herbert Atkinson. [Copyright.]

round between his eye and the light, put it aside with the remark, "Ah, it will do to make ye a pudding." Then he produced a long

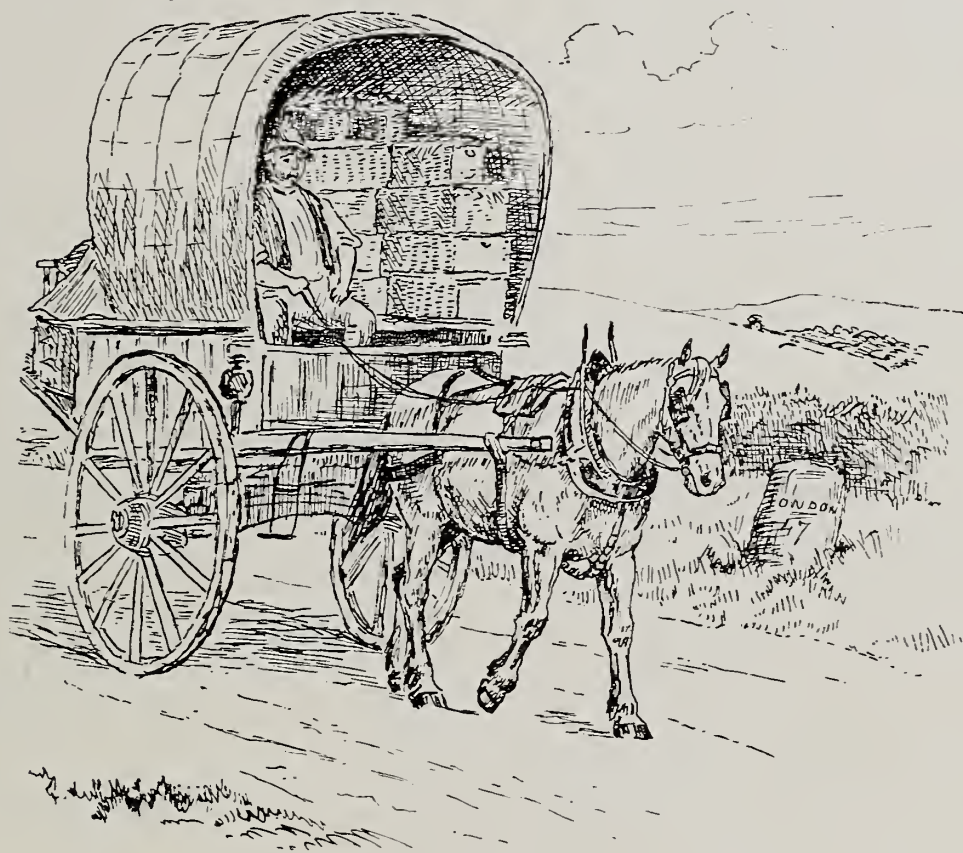


canvas bag, for he always paid in cash, and after grading them in his flats and packing between layers of straw, drove slowly away to the next farm. In those days nearly all the eggs were white or pink, for dark-brown ones were looked on with suspicion.

For chickens, John always gave sixpence a couple less for yellow-legged ones, and declined the Asiatic crosses at any price. "They great Brahma sort, *coorse*, all bone and no meat; no good for the London trade." He did not object to game: "They be nice quality

yard by a neat hedge, and yellow and white jasmine climbed up round the windows and porch, and if you were in favour you would be asked in to partake of home-made wine.

Alas! for John, times changed, for cheap railway rates and the parcel post gradually reduced his trade. Some time before he gave up he told me that when he was a boy he remembered over thirty vans like his regularly meeting in London. "Now there is only one other, and he is giving up," he said. So the little home was mortgaged, the brother



ON THE ROAD TO LONDON.

An original drawing by Herbert Atkinson.

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and plump, and suits some of my private customers." But the Dorking sort, with four or five toes, were his favourites; speckled blue and white and the reds he preferred, with single combs and small bones, and white, thin skin. Ducks, geese, and turkeys he bought in season, also Guinea fowls and fruit; while he invariably carried a few parcels to and from London. His place consisted of a yard, with pig-styes, cowhouse, cart-shed, stable, barn, and a long shed, where his fattening coops, similar to those used in Sussex, were placed. Here fowls that were not "ripe" were penned for about ten days, and fed on meal and milk, and afterwards killed, plucked, and shaped. The cottage was divided from the

and sister died, and John, in declining years, had to go to the workhouse infirmary, as he became childish, and often was all in a worry and bustle, calling on the rest to hurry or they would never get packed in time to start. The old horse and the yellow cart, and the familiar figure in shirt-sleeves, with the loud, cheery voice, was missed on the roads, and is now nearly forgotten. The farms from which he drew his supplies have nearly all changed hands; the type of poultry and the system of keeping them is entirely changed—'tis said, improved; yet I am unable to buy a pair of good table fowls, while eggs are dearer and more difficult to procure in winter than used to be the case.



## BRITISH IMPORTS OF TABLE-POULTRY.

By "STATISTICIAN."

THE complaint made by Mr. J. W. Hurst in the June issue of the POULTRY RECORD as to the relatively small attention given at the Dublin Poultry Conference to table-poultry has led me to examine the figures as to imports received into Great Britain from Ireland and Foreign Countries, together with what are generally designated as British Possessions, and I now submit the results of this investigation to your readers. For the figures given below relating to Ireland I am indebted to the annual Returns of the Department of Agriculture, supplemented for 1910 by special information supplied to me. As the Trade and Navigation Returns issued by the Board of Trade separately enumerate only four countries (Russia, France, Austria-Hungary, and the United States of America), classifying the rest of the world under "Other Countries," I have obtained full lists from the Statistical Office of H.M.'s Custom House, and am enabled to give particulars not hitherto published. The tables commence with the year 1904, as that is the first in which poultry were recorded separately from game, and also that year is the earliest for which Irish exports are available.

Taking Ireland first, if reference be made to my article on "Irish Production and Exports of Eggs and Poultry," which appeared in your May number (Vol. III., page 336), the figures respecting table-poultry exported from Ireland from 1904 to 1909 will be found. At that time those for 1910 had not been published. The values will be found on page 338, and Diagram III. on page 339 of that number gives the quantities. By the courtesy of the Superintendent of Statistics in the Department at Dublin I am enabled to quote the figures of exports for last year as follows: Table-poultry, 331,084 cwts.; value £927,035. It will be seen, therefore, that 1910 was the highest of any year recorded, and that the shipments from Ireland were greater in value by £105,725 than those received in Great Britain from all the rest of the world. That statement startled His Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland at Dublin, as it will many others.

As our Customs authorities do not record weights, which omission is deeply to be regretted, as it prevents what would be valuable comparisons in respect to average values, we

have to content ourselves with total values. One point must be mentioned—namely, that the Irish figures do not include poultry sent by parcels post, and are calculated at the port of shipment, whereas the Trade and Navigation Returns are c.i.f.—that is, they include cost, insurance, and freight—so that the advantage in favour of Ireland should be at least £50,000 more than stated, bringing the total export trade nearly up to £1,000,000 sterling last year.

Table 1 gives the details with respect to all the various countries from which shipments have been received.

TABLE I.—Return showing the Value of Poultry Imported into the United Kingdom from the several Countries of Consignment during each of the Years 1904 to 1910 inclusive.

Countries whence consigned.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Russia .. .. .	348894	278416	191142	277799	360362	351918	303260
Sweden .. .. .	16	68	11	19	398	9	242
Norway .. .. .	99	13	438	323	371	771	843
Denmark (including Farøe Islands) ..	1559	118	202	167	875	306	385
Iceland and Greenland ..	—	—	4	—	3	50	936
Germany .. .. .	13340	6456	14415	9331	10610	8618	12493
Netherlands .. ..	10115	8272	5010	5109	7993	4892	7536
Java .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
Belgium .. .. .	60543	40522	10932	10155	8510	11321	12997
France .. .. .	218401	200728	185981	181942	170387	156085	163527
Switzerland .. ..	101	103	31	52	27	4	10
Portugal .. .. .	4	—	—	—	—	5	—
Spain .. .. .	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Italy .. .. .	114903	109261	85020	105551	97537	114795	99866
Austria-Hungary ..	87478	75280	116672	87335	114037	108542	79607
Servia .. .. .	895	65	—	—	—	1517	800
Roumania .. .. .	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Egypt .. .. .	125	—	800	—	—	—	—
China (exclusive of Hong Kong, Macao, and Wei-hai-wei) ..	—	—	—	—	—	9312	44895
Japan .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
United States of America ..	221584	171304	244555	203588	153135	149552	88144
Argentine Republic ..	—	702	—	—	—	3	—
Channel Islands .. ..	67	13	91	18	27	14	39
Cape of Good Hope ..	—	10	6	—	—	—	—
Natal .. .. .	—	15	—	—	—	—	—
British India .. ..	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
South Australia (including Northern Territory) ..	—	95	—	63	210	111	156
Victoria .. .. .	85	423	333	567	166	16	127
New South Wales .. ..	567	30	77	100	11	—	10
Queensland .. .. .	682	1553	542	379	835	—	—
Tasmania .. .. .	30	15	—	—	—	—	—
New Zealand .. .. .	352	586	233	1126	24	34	17
Canada .. .. .	9305	12266	12619	20173	9161	2803	5362
Newfoundland and Coast of Labrador .. ..	—	286	—	—	—	2	—
Falkland Islands .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Turkey Asiatic .. ..	—	180	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .. .. .	1089145	905791	859114	903847	934679	920697	821292

It will be seen that many countries have contributed to our requirements in this direction, even far Japan, some of which have



given up the trade after one or two shipments. In every individual instance among those who really count there has been a decline from 1904, in some cases to a considerable extent, though that was not always the maximum year. I have, therefore, shown in Table II. the percentage of 1910 as compared with the highest year of imports.

TABLE II.—Relative Imports.

Country.	Maximum Year.	1910 Percentage.
Russia .. ..	1908 .. ..	84.22
Netherlands .. ..	1904 .. ..	75.3
Germany .. ..	1906 .. ..	89.23
Belgium .. ..	1904 .. ..	21.5
France .. ..	1904 .. ..	75.0
Italy .. ..	1904 .. ..	87.59
Austria-Hungary .. ..	1906 .. ..	68.62
United States .. ..	1906 .. ..	36.12
Canada .. ..	1907 .. ..	26.8
Totals .. ..	1904 .. ..	75.41

The advances made, with one exception, are small and unimportant. That exception is China, which commenced in 1909 by sending poultry to the value of £9,312, jumping in 1910 to £44,895. The question may fairly be asked, Is the Celestial Empire going to become a factor in our extraneous supplies of table-poultry? Inquiries as to quality of imports are not within my province.

A striking fact is that of poultry imports six European countries (Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia) supplied in 1910 81.77 per cent. of our total receipts, and that the United States of America accounted for 10.73 per cent., making a total of 92.5, leaving 7.5 for the rest of the world. Of these Austria-Hungary, Belgium, and the United States have declined largely, the others to a lesser extent.

The most startling deduction, however, to be drawn from Table 1 is the small place

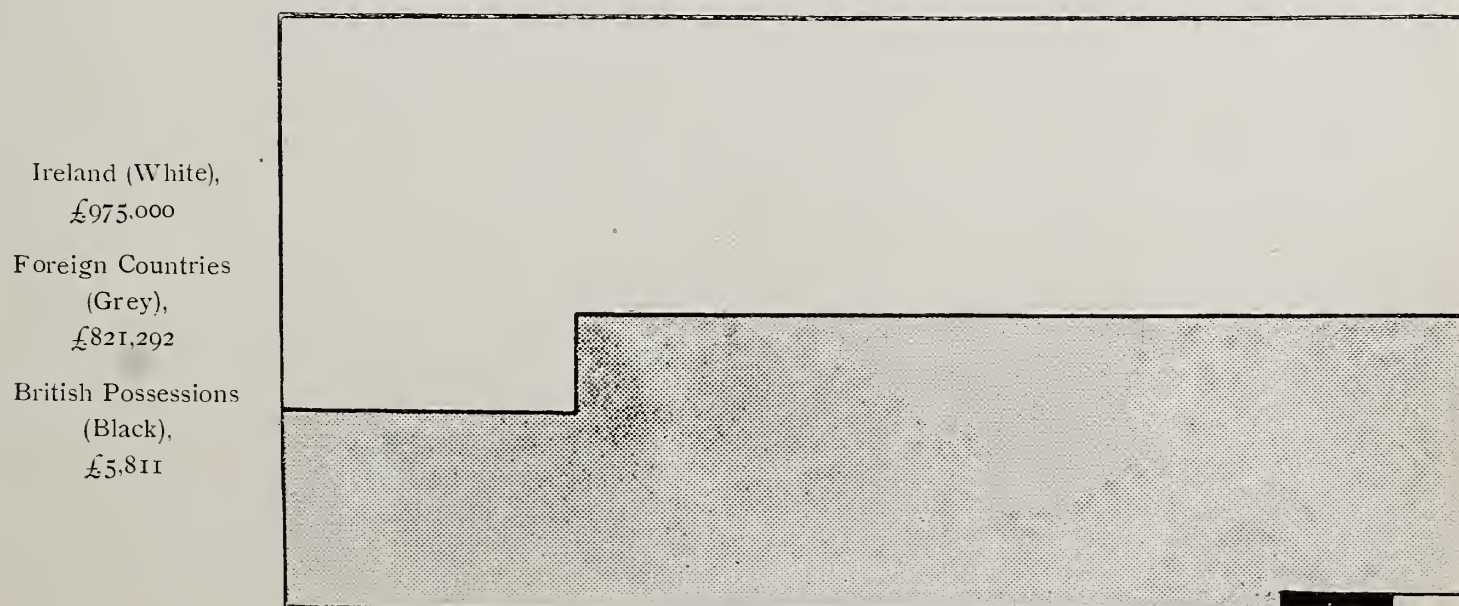
which British Possessions occupy in providing the requirements of the British people. We have heard a great deal as to what certain Colonies were going to do in this direction. At one time Canada looked like taking an important place. That is no longer the case. In 1910 the total value of poultry sent to the United Kingdom from other sections of the British Empire was in value only £5,711, or 0.7 per cent. of the total supplies. We may fairly say, "Wake up, Greater Britons!"—unless they are content with things as they are.

DIAGRAM I.—Total Imports of Poultry (Values) from 1904 to 1910, showing the relative supplies from Ireland as compared with British Possessions and Foreign Countries.

	Ire'and.	Brit. Poss. & Foreign Countries.	Grand Totals.
1904	£779,948	£1,089,145	£1,869,093
1905	£826,658	£905,791	£1,732,449
1906	£855,176	£869,114	£1,724,290
1907	£847,247	£903,847	£1,751,094
1908	£797,376	£934,679	£1,732,055
1909	£857,276	£920,697	£1,777,973
1910	£927,035	£821,292	£1,748,327

In Diagram I. I show the total supplies to Great Britain from without its own borders—that is, including Ireland, British Possessions, and Foreign Countries—for the seven years ending with 1910. It will be seen by the right-hand line that the trend has been throughout downward, even with the greater volume of

DIAGRAM II.—Relative Imports of Poultry (Values) into Great Britain, 1910





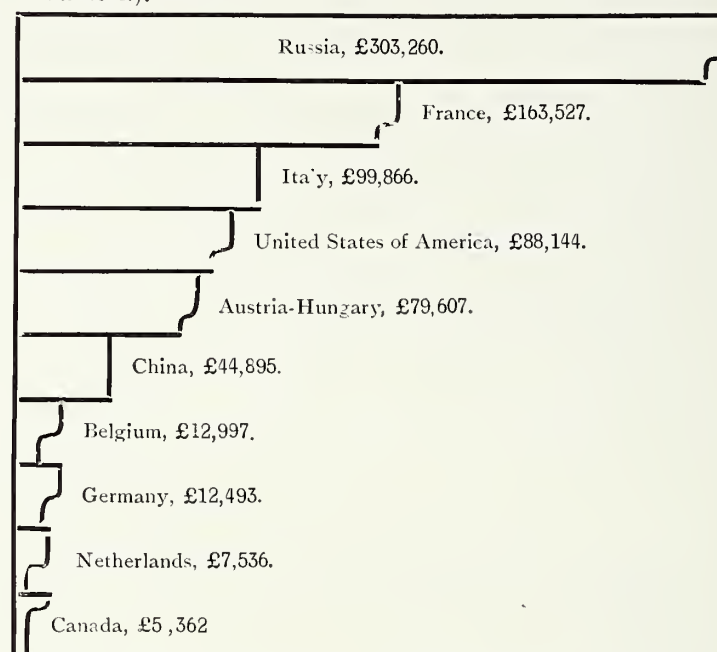
Irish supplies included. The reduction from 1904 to 1910 is no less than £120,766. On the other hand, Ireland shows, with a check in 1908, upward progress, so that it now bulks largest.

Diagram II. gives the relative imports of poultry in values for 1910. The small place which British Possessions outside the United Kingdom occupy is emphasised. The satisfactory feature is the development of Irish supplies. How far production in Britain itself is responsible for the decline in foreign trade it is impossible for me to suggest at present. When the long-promised statistics as to production are issued an opinion may be formed and comparisons made.

Diagram III. shows the relative imports of poultry from the more important countries in 1910, not including Ireland, and bears out the figures already given.

I leave eggs for similar treatment next month. Meanwhile the foregoing figures will show the importance of giving greater attention to the production of table-poultry desired by

DIAGRAM III.—Relative Imports of Poultry (Values) into Great Britain, 1910, from more important Countries (see Table I.).



Mr. Hurst, as foreign supplies may prove a very broken reed.

## SOME RESULTS OF POULTRY EDUCATION.

By FRED W. PARTON (The University, Leeds).

THE history of poultry education dates from the year 1892, and during the period which has elapsed since then much has been accomplished. Much yet remains, however, to be done. There are many counties which have included poultry instruction with other branches of agricultural education, with manifest advantage. There are, however, on the other hand—as was so clearly shown in a recent issue of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD by “Statistician”—many counties which have either never taken up the work, or have done so, and afterwards, for no apparent reason, abandoned it. Much might be written as to the inadequacy of the teaching of this important industry, and suggestions might be made for improvement in the methods of teaching, when facilities for greater advancement are offered. It is, however, our intention to speak more of what has been achieved under the existing conditions.

There are many who ask, What has been the result of all this education and what benefits have accrued from it? The result can scarcely be measured, it is so widespread and varied; the producer, trader, and consumer have all benefited.

In the early days of poultry education much

prejudice had to be combated, old-fashioned notions to be overcome, and difficulties to be fought. The reward for much strenuous effort is now apparent in many directions, perhaps in none more than in the quality of fowls that are kept. Farmers—and it is they to whom education has been mainly directed—have been led to grasp one very important fact, and that is the futility of endeavouring to obtain all the economic virtues from one class of poultry and the folly of keeping certain of the heavy breeds alone for egg-production. They know perfectly well that there are breeds (1) for table purposes, (2) birds that are equipped with qualities that assist winter laying, and (3) those essentially of the laying type. They are thus enabled to select the breed or breeds best suited for their specific purpose. Anyone who has had the opportunity of comparing the fowls on the majority of farms of fifteen or sixteen years ago with those of to-day cannot but admit that there is a distinct improvement. The old-time mongrel or the miscalled “barn-door fowl” has almost, if not quite, disappeared, and the difference between a mongrel and a useful cross is understood. Cross-bred stock is still kept, and it is not desirable



that it should be otherwise, since size and stamina are thus maintained, but it is widely realised that the border line is reached with the first cross, and further crossing must cease. Some method in the manner of crossing is now adopted. Crossing is not merely indulged in for the sake of crossing, but with some definite object in view, either to improve or confirm some characteristic or to correct any signs of degeneracy that may be apparent. To restore loss in size or of fecundity, crossing is resorted to. This shows that some intelligence is brought to bear in the management of the present-day stock. The elimination of the cross-bred cock for any other than culinary purposes is a further point gained towards permanent improvement. A visit paid to the majority of general farms twenty years ago would reveal a sight which, fortunately, is very rare to-day. No distinctive type was to be seen, while probably as many of one sex as of the other, closely related, and of ages varying from three to five years, ran about together. Occasionally new male birds were introduced, usually of different types, and seldom indeed were the same breeds obtained in two consecutive years. In this way the mongrel character of the stock was not only maintained, but intensified. The chicken-raising ground was the permanent haunt of the old birds, all sharing alike.

To-day pure-bred birds, or first crosses between suitable breeds, are to be found on the greater number of farms. No longer are the fowls confined continually to the stack-yard. They enjoy the freedom of roaming over permanent pasture, meadow, stubble, and ploughed land in turn. The old-time prejudice of farmers, that fowls were harmful to pasture lands, and were damaging to other stock that had to follow them, is now entirely eradicated, and there are many farmers in Great Britain to-day who adopt the system of scattering the fowls about the land. Attention is paid to hygienic principles of housing and the proper amount of breathing space per bird, while the internal fixtures, such as perches and nest-boxes, are made after a pattern that facilitates cleanliness and comfort for the inmates of the house.

Perhaps the improvement in the methods of feeding is second only to the improvement in the general stock. Nowadays the art of feeding is understood to a much greater extent, and it is recognised by many that no one food will serve the same purpose both in winter and in summer.

The importance of poultry on the farm has been kept continually before the farmer's notice; and he has been tempted to try what he could do. He has seen that as his methods improved his egg yield increased accordingly, and this has been an incentive to further effort, with the result that to-day cases might be cited by the hundred, in all parts of the country, where direct benefit has accrued from poultry education.

Not only has poultry-keeping bettered the condition of the farmer, but it has also greatly benefited the artisan and other classes of small poultry-keepers who are so numerous in our large centres of population; especially numerous since education has been so widely circulated throughout the length and breadth of England. Success has acted as a stimulus and has tempted many to take up the work as a hobby, and provided a recreation that has brightened the lives of many whose life is passed among somewhat grim surroundings. To others, again, it is a source of, or at least an addition to, their income.

Geese and turkeys also show a corresponding improvement both in quality and in quantity. The same, however, cannot be claimed so far as ducks are concerned. There are a few specialists in most counties, but, speaking generally, duck-rearing has not been taken up to the extent that might have been reasonably expected. In this no reference is made to improvement in size and quality, since these are exceedingly good, but rather to the lethargy of breeders in endeavouring to have ducklings ready for marketing when they are in their first feather, and during the first four or five months of the year.

Of course, it is a well-known fact that unless producer and consumer can be brought into communication in a comparatively easy manner, all else is in vain. Education has assisted in a greater output of poultry produce, hence the farmer has looked more kindly on combination and has become more eager to branch out in every direction where better markets may be secured. This tendency is more marked among the younger farmers, who are more alive to the importance of getting out of the groove followed by their predecessors, and are aware of the fact that the conditions of to-day are quite different from those of twenty and more years ago. To hold their own successfully against foreign competition, breeders must adopt progressive methods.



## WHO'S WHO IN THE POULTRY WORLD.

### MRS. L. C. PRIDEAUX.

IN the Yokohama Fancy to-day there is probably no better-known exhibitor than the subject of this brief sketch. It is certain that no one has done more to get the breed recognised as a show bird in this country than has Mrs. L. C. Prideaux. Having lived all her early life in a country parsonage—first of all in the wilds of Shropshire, among the hills and moors, and some twelve miles from Shrewsbury, and afterwards in Herefordshire—it

full-feathered cock to show his tail to some advantage.

It may be imagined that to keep the plumage of the Yokohama male bird in fit condition for the show-pen requires no end of attention. Anyone who hesitates to go in for Yokohamas on this account should endeavour to visit Mrs. Prideaux's well-known yard at Lindfield, near Hayward's Heath. Her birds are hardy reared and kept as Game fowls, having their liberty practically all through the year.



MRS. L. C. PRIDEAUX.

[Copyright.]

is perhaps natural that she has always been fond of animals; yet she admits, enthusiastic fancier though she be, that she never classes poultry anywhere near horses, mules, dogs, and cats.

Shortly after Mrs. Prideaux was married, and had to live in London, she took a cottage in Sussex, and there, about ten years ago, she started keeping Yokohama fowls, because they attracted her more by their beauty than any other form of bird. She has never kept any other kind of poultry on her own account; but there were always plenty at her mother's home in the old days, which she used to assist in tending, and thus it was that in later years the management of fowls was not a difficult undertaking.

In 1906 a move was made to get Yokohama classes at the shows, and Mrs. Prideaux began to exhibit her birds; and during the following year a few enthusiasts founded the Yokohama Club. What that club, small and select though it be, has done for the breed need not be recounted here; suffice it to say that wherever Yokohamas are now exhibited they are provided with special pens, big enough in the case of the male birds to allow a

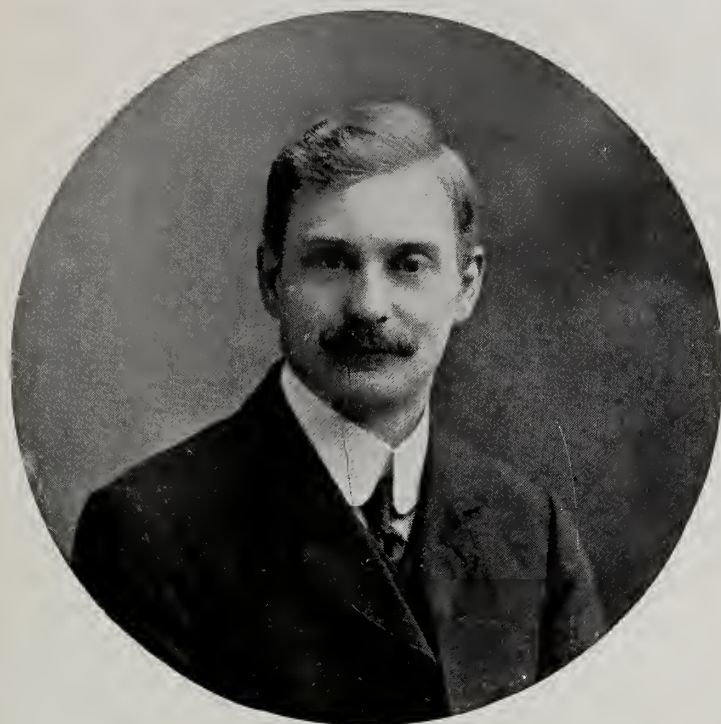
### MR. JAMES ATHERTON GLOVER.

ALTHOUGH a mining engineer by profession, Mr. J. A. Glover has always had a predilection for fowls, and as far back as he can recollect he has been a poultry fancier. It was not until two or three years ago, however, that he decided to go in for prize stock; and ever since he entered the show arena, in 1909, his success with Black Wyandottes and Buff and Black Orpingtons has been more pronounced than he expected. In fact, with his favourite variety, the Black Wyandotte, Mr. Glover has more than held his own.

During his first year in the Fancy he won first prize at the Dairy Show, while at that event last year he went one better, not only winning first prize, but the cup for the best Black. He was equally successful at the Crystal Palace and Birmingham Shows, while at the annual club fixture of 1909 he secured the cup for the best young bird. His greatest success, however, was at last year's Club Show, where he won the cup for the best bird in a section of 243 entries, cup for the best young bird, cup for the best cockerel, and cup for



the best hen—a total of four cups of a possible six—truly a great achievement, considering the strong



MR. J. A. GLOVER.

competition there is to-day in the Black Wyandotte Fancy.

Mr. Glover is on the committee of the Lancashire Branch of the Poultry Club, and holds a similar position in the Black Wyandotte Club, and is, in addition, a club judge to the latter body.

### MR. A. L. WYNDHAM.

THE success which has been attained by the poultry industry in Australia owes much to the climatic and other conditions, but more to the men who have been responsible for its development. One of the more prominent of these is Mr. A. L. Wyndham, who for the past six years has been in charge of the poultry on the Wagga Experimental Farm in New South Wales, a view of part of which is, we note, included in the report just published by the Scottish Agricultural Commission to Australia.

Mr. Wyndham has been a poultry-breeder for about thirty years, and in the early days went in mainly for the older type of Light Brahmas. In 1887 he took up Black Turkeys. Until eleven years ago poultry was a secondary pursuit, but at that time breeding became the main object and a means of livelihood, leading ultimately to his present appointment. His efforts have always been in the direction of production for market, and, we believe, he has never exhibited, as he holds very strong views on present-day shows.

The stock under Mr. Wyndham's care at the Wagga Experimental Farm consists of American Bronze Turkeys, White Leghorns, Black Orpingtons, Silver and White Wyandottes, and egg-production is kept constantly in view. Mr. Wyndham acts as instructor to students on the farm, and frequently lectures for the Government in the Colony, in which capacity he has exerted a wide-reaching influence.

## THE THRELFORD TESTIMONIAL FUND.

*To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD.*

DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in informing you that it has been decided to offer Mr. T. Threlford a testimonial, as an appreciation of the many valuable services given by him to the Poultry Fancy in general for many years past. Mr. Threlford is, as you know, the popular Hon. Secretary of the Poultry Section of the Grand International Show; he has been or is connected with many other important shows, such as Hayward's Heath and the Dairy; he has for the past eighteen years been continuously on the Committee or Council of the Poultry Club (part of the time as Hon. Secretary), and in all these positions has rendered, and is still rendering, sterling service to poultry fanciers.

A committee has been formed to deal with the proposed fund, and has appointed Mr. John Wilkinson, of Burrow House, Scotforth, Lancaster, and me to act as hon. secretaries. Subscriptions, which are limited to a guinea, will be gratefully received and acknowledged by either of us, and it is earnestly hoped that poultry fanciers, one and all, will send contributions, no matter how small,



MR. A. L. WYNDHAM

so that the testimonial may be as representative as it deserves to be, and the committee feel sure that the friends of Mr. Threlford, many and universal as they are, will welcome this opportunity of showing their appreciation of his work.

Trusting to receive your early favourable reply, I am, yours faithfully,

W. J. GOLDING.

Westwood Farm, The Weald, Kent.



## POULTRY AT THE FESTIVAL OF EMPIRE.

By W. H. WALTON.

IT is indeed deplorable that the support given by the general public to the Small Holdings and Country Life section now installed at the Festival of Empire, Crystal Palace, is so meagre. The reason for this lack of interest is difficult of explanation, except, perhaps, the isolated position the section occupies and the extensive and general attractiveness of the other sections to be seen at the Crystal Palace. I would, however, strongly recommend my readers to visit this section, even at the cost of missing other sections which may exhibit externally more attractive features.

The Small Holdings section is situated near the Penge entrance to the Palace grounds, and if entering by this gate it will be found a short distance down on the right-hand side. If approached from the Palace it will be found on the left at the extreme end of the main walk, which is known by the appropriate title of Empire Avenue. To be even more precise, the exact location of the section may be defined by a more popular landmark—the cycle track—at the back of which it will be discovered. The section is unique in many respects, but mainly because it is practically the first attempt to demonstrate modern and economical methods of production for actual and prospective small holders. Ten acres have been devoted to this purpose, of which two acres are occupied by a working farm, the other space being reserved for an exhibit of fifty-one pens of leading varieties of poultry and other exhibits, such as intensive gardening and the Philo system of poultry-keeping. In no sense of the word is this two-acre farm meant to represent a model small holding. Rather it is intended to combine features of farming industry from which the cultivator of an allotment, or the farmer of fifty acres, may obtain useful and valuable hints. As one approaches the section from the Sydenham end an orchard may be seen. This is laid out upon lines of a modern intensive fruit plantation, and it is hoped that opportunity may be afforded for demonstrations in pruning and spraying, grafting, &c., and a series of lectures is being arranged for the purpose of instruction in these branches. A little further on may be seen a crop of roots, and plots wherein experimental wheat has been planted. Beyond this is the pasture land, where a small flock of sheep and a mare with her foal are grazing. The buildings consist of a model cottage, stable, cow-house, piggeries, and cart-shed. There is also to be seen an incubator house, a large brooder house, fattening pens, and rabbit hutches of the Morant type.

Running away to the right of the small holder's cottage are the twenty pens of utility poultry, the breeds represented including Orpingtons, Wyandottes, Leghorns, Minorcas, Houdans, Faverolles,

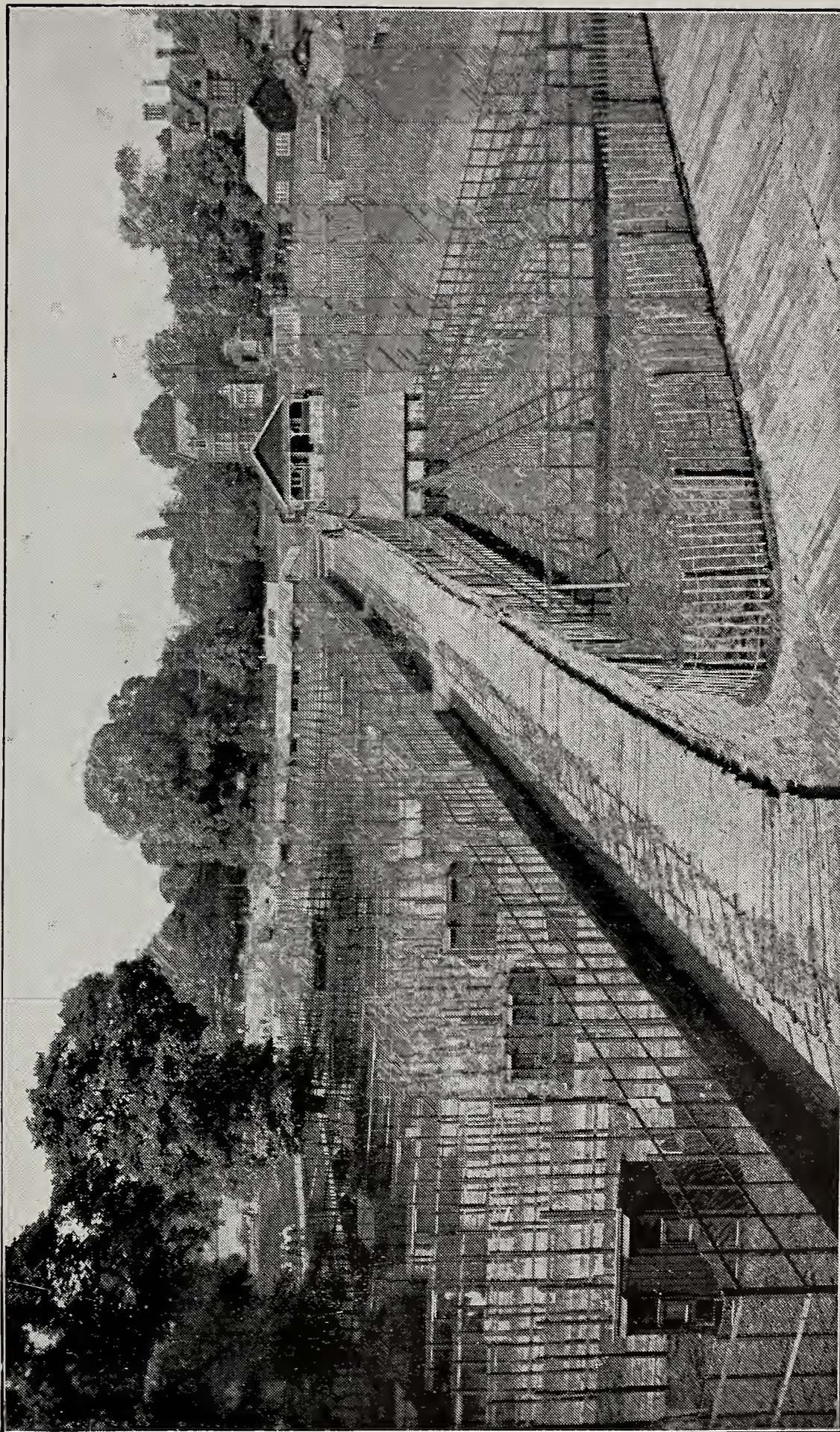
Dorkings, Langshans, and Rhode Island Reds. There is also a pond with four different breeds of ducks, and on the bank some fine Embden geese. In the plantation at the rear may be seen three different breeds of turkeys and growing stock. The whole of the stock has been supplied by Messrs. Abbot Bros. from their farm at Thuxton, Norfolk, and the plant, including the small holders' cottages and outhouses, by Mr. Randolph Meech, of Poole, Dorset.

The exhibit of pure-bred poultry, about which a reference was made in our last number, is quite distinct from the Small Holder's Farm. This section consists of fifty-one pens of birds comprising the best-known varieties from the most renowned breeders in Great Britain. The collection is unique in many respects, and it may safely be said that no collection of breeding pens has ever been got together under such natural conditions. The exhibit reflects the greatest credit upon Mr. L. C. Verrey and his committee.

The official opening of the Small Holdings section took place on June 24, when Lord Carrington, President of the Board of Agriculture, paid it a visit of inspection. In his speech he pointed out that though agriculture had recovered from depression, much yet remained to be done, and he welcomed the exhibition as an object-lesson of what could be done by small holders. This exhibition, coming at an opportune time, would convince everyone of the growing demand for small holdings, and demonstrate how it was possible by scientific work and co-operative methods to get a very decent living off the land. On his own estate those engaged in cultivating small holdings were honest, upright, and some of the best tenants. He had only provided the land, and they, by their own enterprise and industry, had become a credit to themselves, a credit to their country, and a credit to the very kingdom itself. It was not enough, however, to supply the land, though that was the first and most important step. The small holder required education and guidance, and it was the aim of the exhibition to supply such education, and he only wished that it might be sent on tour so that all small holders might gain something from the valuable information it imparted. He also pointed out that as a side-line poultry-keeping had been very largely neglected. The producing of eggs and table-poultry, rabbits, and bees would add considerably to the income of small holders when co-operation in marketing is thoroughly carried out.

During this month the National Congress on Rural Development and Small Holdings will take place in the Congress Hall on the ground, and it is hoped that the section will then be visited by a large number of interested persons.





THE COUNTRY LIFE SECTION OF THE FESTIVAL OF EMPIRE.  
Poultry Runs, Farm Buildings, and Small-Holder's Cottage.

[By courtesy of the Editor of the *Feathered World*.



## FANCIERS AND FANCY MATTERS.

By WILLIAM W. BROOMHEAD.

*An Amateur's Fowls—The Red Boom—"The Misfit Standard"—The Threlford Testimonial Fund—The Royal Show—August Shows.*

## AN AMATEUR'S FOWLS.

There is such a great tendency at the present time to "make money" out of the Fancy, to go in for the exhibiting of poultry with the sole object of turning it into a financial success, that it is quite refreshing to come across a large establishment which is being carried on purely as an interesting hobby. Such a yard as this, then, is the one that Mr. William M. Yetts has at The Wood, Maybury, Woking. And there, last month, I had the pleasure of seeing as fine a collection of Buff Orpingtons as I have ever found in an amateur's yard. No professional poultryman is employed at The Wood, and the whole work connected with the birds is carried on by Mr. Yetts and his head gardener, the latter in every way a most enthusiastic poultry-keeper. When The Wood was taken over by its present owner, a few years since, there was the usual collection of mongrel fowls; but having a fancy for pure-bred birds, Mr. Yetts soon disposed of them and set about establishing a strain of poultry that would be worth looking at. The Buff Orpington was selected, since in his opinion—and I think all fanciers who have attempted to breed the variety to a state of perfection will agree with him—the Buff is one of the most difficult kinds with which to deal when "breeding to standard" has to be taken into consideration. At the outset Mr. Yetts purchased stock birds from different well-known yards, and by carefully selecting and mating the fowls, and always rigorously weeding out the wasters, he has succeeded in establishing a first-class strain of his own. Mr. Yetts never disposes of his best birds, and any fowls which leave his yards—numbers are used in the house—are either marketed through the ordinary channels or sent to the autumn sales.

## THE RED BOOM.

In his article "On the Red Horizon" in last month's ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD Mr. J. Pettipher omitted to mention one Red breed that has been in existence for some years now. I refer to the Red Sussex, a variety which deserves well of all concerned in the latest boom. Here one has an old-established breed, practically as old as the Red Dorking, and certainly possessing all the excellent utility properties of that variety when it was at its best. The Red Sussex is *par excellence* a table-fowl, having white skin and shanks, being of a quiet disposition, and thereby taking readily to the cramming process, hardy to a degree, a quick grower and a good "flesher." The hens and pullets, too, are particularly prolific winter layers, and they produce eggs of a good marketable size. One does not wish to "throw cold water" on the idea of bringing out new breeds or varieties, since novelty in this direction generally does good to the whole poultry industry. Nevertheless it would be as well if there were greater distinction between these new varieties. For instance, what

difference is there between the Red Orpington (the very latest) and the Red Sussex, and between the rose-combed Rhode Island Red and the Red Wyandotte? I think I know the numerous breeds and varieties of poultry as well as anyone, but I must admit that I have given it up! It is hard enough to distinguish between a Jubilee Orpington and a Speckled Sussex, and it is only a "stickler for type" who has any hope of doing so; but if the Fancy is going to encourage varieties such as the Reds mentioned above it cannot lead to other than a hopeless muddle. Type is a good thing in its way, but outbreeding with entirely foreign blood is so common nowadays that the family stamp is often difficult to ascertain. And it is no rare occurrence for a single-combed (sport) White Wyandotte to win as a White Plymouth Rock or a yellow-legged Buff Orpington to pass muster as a Buff Plymouth Rock! Let us have new varieties by all means, but let them be new—not in name only.

## "THE MISFIT STANDARD."

When I was busy editing the latest standards for the Poultry Club (the fourth edition, which was published last year) it was suggested to me by more than one fancier that the work would not be a complete guide for the novice until it included illustrations of ideal specimens of the various breeds mentioned in it. I must admit that at the time I was in favour of an illustrated standard; in fact, I am now, since good sketches are of great service to the young beginner, and should simplify to the utmost degree the wording of the text. The difficulties of getting a drawing of an ideal bird, a sketch that will please all, are great, it must be admitted; but that the latest endeavour, in the 1910 edition of the American Standard of Perfection, should have met with so much disapproval in the land of its birth is passing strange. In my review of the work, which appeared in the April issue of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD, I drew attention to a few minor defects in the drawings; but American critics have not been backward in giving their views. Both Mr. Franklane L. Sewell and Mr. Louis P. Graham, foremost among American poultry artists, frankly admit in the Press that some of their sketches have been grossly bungled, while well-known breeders, judges, and secretaries of specialist clubs have criticised the illustrations in a severe manner. With the object, therefore, of assisting in the work of correcting the shape outlines in the first edition of the 1910 standard, the *American Poultry World* has prepared ideal outlines (some of which are published in its June issue) and submitted the line drawings to foremost breeders, judges, and officers of specialist clubs; and it hopes later on to deliver to a proper committee of the American Poultry Association modified shape outlines embodying the important criticisms. The Orpington, being an English breed, sketches of it have been sent to leading lights in this country, so it is hoped that fanciers over here will do their best to help on the good work.

## THE THRELFORD TESTIMONIAL FUND.

I hear from Mr. W. J. Golding that it has been decided to offer Mr. T. Threlford a testimonial as an appreciation of the many valuable services he has rendered to the Poultry Fancy in general for some years past. As is well known, Mr.



Threlford is the popular hon. secretary of the poultry section of the Grand International Show at the Palace and has been connected with other important shows, besides being a prominent member of the Poultry Club. A committee has been formed to deal with the proposed fund, and Mr. J. Wilkinson (Burrow House, Scotforth, Lancaster) and Mr. W. J. Golding (Westwood Farm, The Weald, Kent) have been appointed to act as hon. secretaries. Subscriptions are limited to a guinea (maximum), and it is hoped that poultry fanciers one and all will send contributions, no matter how small, so that the testimonial may be as representative as it deserves to be.

#### THE ROYAL SHOW.

It was a pleasant surprise to some people—though not to those of us who are “in the know”—that the Royal Show this year was a great event as regards the entry in the poultry section; in fact, for that department, it was probably the best of its kind that has ever been held in connection with the Royal Agricultural Society of England. There was a record entry of birds, a total of 1,218 in the 132 classes, and this despite the alteration of dates and the fact that the event was again not held under Poultry Club Rules. There were “ugly rumours” concerning the latter affair, and certain members of the Poultry Club withheld their entries as a protest. The attempt to curtail the entries, however, fell very flat; and since the President of the Poultry Club, at least one past President, some Vice-Presidents, and many members of that body were represented at the event, it would appear that “rumour lied.” Well, well, those of us who know—know! There was more in it than met the eye. However, the Royal made a big score off its own bat, and since this is the second year in succession that the “Royal” has got along very well without Poultry Club Rules, it will probably continue on its own way in future.

#### AUGUST SHOWS.

Many excellent poultry shows have already been held this season, but there are more to follow. Up to the time of going to press with the present issue nearly one hundred events are notified for August. The month opens with the Durham County Show at Chester-le-Street (2nd inst.), while on the following day the Royal Lancs. opens at Bury. This latter, from August 3rd to 7th, is a most important affair, with 165 classes for poultry, and possibly the largest chicken show of the year. Wem, Shropshire, will take place on the 4th, and Wingate, Durham, on the 5th. The Bank Holiday events total fourteen so far, and chief among them will be those at Hexham (Northumberland), Holbeach and Spalding (Lincs.), Burton Joyce (Notts), Whalley (Lancs.), and Cambridge. Horfield, Bristol, is announced for the 9th, the Staffordshire Agricultural at Keele on the 10th, the Denbigh and Flint at Wrexham on the 11th, and half a dozen on the 12th. Worsley (Lancs.), Lancaster, Kenilworth, Harrogate, Biddulph, Sheffield (Hallam and Ecclesall Society), all first-class poultry shows, will take place between the 15th and the 17th. Malpas, Cheshire, comes off on the 22nd, Derby, and Moreton-in-Marsh (Glos.) on the 23rd, Penistone, Yorks., on the 24th, Redcar on the 25th, and half a dozen on the 26th, while the month

finishes with, among others, Hednesford 28th and 29th, Hawes 29th, Chester and Blackpool 30th, and Sandy, Llangollen, and Abergwili on the 31st. Those readers who are looking ahead may like to make a note of Hayward's Heath (Sussex) Sept. 14 and 15, Caterham (Surrey) Sept. 20 and 21, Altrincham (Cheshire) Sept. 27, the Dairy Show Oct. 3, 4, 5, and 6, and Manchester Oct. 24, 25, and 26.

### RULES FOR SUCCESS IN THE POULTRY BUSINESS.

THE following practical recommendations by a practical man—Mr. R. P. Ellis—are culled from an article in the “Reliable Poultry Journal,” but are applicable to all countries.—Editor.

1. Start small. It isn't the chicken business but you who are on trial. So you might as well minimise the chicken end of it so you will have a better chance to study yourself in relation to the business.
2. Start the poultry as a side line. Do not heave anchor to drift with an unknown current.
3. Study the subject—not from books only, but from the birds themselves. Incidentally the best books are the poultry journals. Many books are out of date before the first edition is exhausted. The journals present the present-day information about the business.
4. Start with thoroughbred stock. Buy the best of its kind for the purpose you want it for. If you want to go into the egg business, make your start with an egg-laying strain—not a feather strain.
5. Keep only one breed. Concentrate your attention and work. Different breeds require different methods of handling. Do not make the mistake of trying out a number of breeds to see which one you like best. That is as sensible as trying out a number of professions to see which suits you best. There is sufficient information available to enable you to make a choice. Benefit by the experience of others.
6. Keep things clean. Filth breeds disease and vermin.
7. Have pure drinking water and wholesome grains.
8. Do not neglect a sufficient supply of green food and animal food—if you want eggs.
9. Enforce exercise—feeding grains in litter is one method.
10. Supply fresh air in all houses. The open and curtain-front houses take care of this.
11. Avoid dampness and draught—they cause disease.
12. Isolate sick members of flock and disinfect if disease is contagious.
13. Do not overfeed—either chicks or fowls.
14. Do not overheat chicks—it weakens them.
15. Do not overcrowd chicks or fowls—give them a chance to do their best.
16. Do not sell your eggs to commission men. Get as near to the actual consumer as you can, and earn all the profits.
17. Do not keep a hen beyond her period of usefulness. The first or pullet year is the most profitable for eggs.



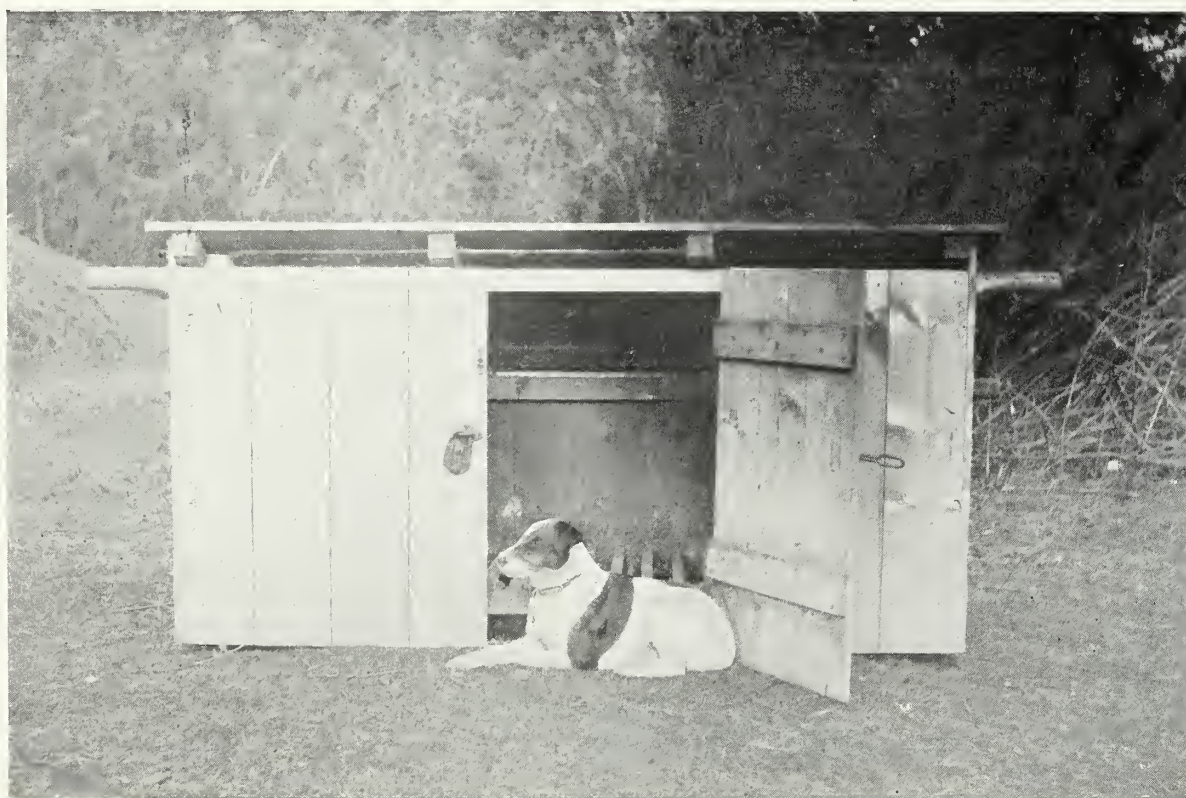
## THE CARE OF HALF - GROWN CHICKENS.

By A SUSSEX FARMER.

SOME of the methods of those who rear chickens for the fatteners in Sussex and Kent are worthy of adoption in other parts of the country. The bulk of these chickens are reared, of course, during the summer months, for although every endeavour is made to get early broods, it is during the warmer period of the year that birds can be reared with less difficulty and expense. Chickens are required by the fatteners for cramming when they reach the age of three to five months, and those, therefore, that are hatched from the end of March onwards are what the rearer calls "summer

wet weather in the autumn is another inducement to him to clear his stock as soon as possible after the summer is over.

The title of "running chickens" (the "s" is dropped as a rule) is given in Kent and Sussex to all birds being reared for the fatterer after the time when they leave the hen or foster-mother—say, at the age of a month to six weeks. When they reach that period of their career they go out into the meadows or on to waste ground by the wayside in "arks"—wooden houses on legs, made in the shape of the popular conception of a Noah's Ark, but with boarded or battened floors raised a foot or so off the ground. Some fifty or sixty birds are generally placed together in an ark, and the houses are stood well apart so that the chickens shall keep to their own particular home. The critical stage in the lives of the birds may now be said to



A FORM OF HOUSE SOMETIMES EMPLOYED BY THE SUSSEX AND SURREY REARERS.

This is really a better kind than the "ark" referred to in the above article. [Copyright.]

chicken." Prices are naturally lower during summer and early autumn than at other times, partly because there is less demand for fat poultry after the London season expires and partly because the rearer can afford to take less money for birds that have cost him less in time and trouble to produce. The beginning of the game season in August also has some effect on poultry prices, although since grouse and partridges do not always appear upon the market in large numbers, the depression caused by the game supply is not so great in some seasons as in others. Pheasants are always more or less plentiful, and the chicken-rearer, as well as the fatterer, looks forward to November, when they are to be had in greatest quantity, with feelings of disgust. Anything, therefore, which the rearer can do to bring forward his stock of running chickens, so that he may get rid of the bulk of them before the approach of the pheasant season makes itself felt, is of great importance, and the advent of cold,

be practically over, and losses are comparatively few when once they are transferred to the arks. Overcrowding is the chief danger that has to be guarded against, and as the birds grow it is best to divide them into smaller lots—say, thirty to forty—or else during the hot nights of summer there is a risk of smothering the weaker ones. Efficient ventilation, provided by a small unboarded space at each end of the house in the apex of the roof under the eaves, is essential.

Now, it has often been noticed that running chickens come to a standstill during the summer if kept too long in the meadows, especially in dry, hot weather. The ground becomes stale if there are many birds upon it, and insect food, which grows more scarce as the ground gets drier, becomes practically exhausted. Birds reared by the wayside, especially in shady lanes, thrive better at such times than those in parched meadows, the shade provided by the hedges and the extra amount of natural food



found in moist ditches being of immense advantage to growing birds. Acting on this principle, the farmers and cottagers in Kent and Sussex move their running chickens, as summer advances, into the woods or "shaws" (spinneys) whenever they have the opportunity of so doing, and it has been proved over and over again that the plan has a most beneficial effect on the birds. Apart from the change of ground, the different conditions of existence afforded by life in the woods give the birds just that fillip of which they are so much in need during hot weather. Wherever they go in covert, they can find something to eat in the way of insect food, and even when they are not hungry they are kept occupied in scratching or dusting instead of moping about in the scorching sun or huddling together for shade behind the arks. Grit, too, which is so essential to the well-being of fowls, old or young, can always be obtained in the loose soil of the woods. If the birds need sunshine, they can find it in the open spaces of the wood, or by coming outside, and it is preferable that the arks should be placed just outside the wood, moving them along a few yards once or twice a week. Under this method the birds get constant change and explore each part of the wood in turn. One of the advantages of placing the houses outside the wood instead of within it is that the manurial value of running chickens is considerable, and the land ought to get the benefit.

The question of vermin must also be considered, and foxes, stoats, weasels, and rats are more likely to be troublesome within the wood than outside it. It is a good plan to have the houses boarded right down to the ground on three sides, while the fourth side may be blocked at night with a board to keep any large vermin from getting in underneath. Foxes and cats will sometimes get underneath a house with a barred floor and pull the unfortunate chicks through the bars by the legs piecemeal. Smaller vermin will not be able to get in at night after the house is closed, but a few traps set in drain-pipes or in covered "runs," as the gamekeeper sets them, will be some safeguard against possible depredations in the wood by day.

After the harvest is cleared from the fields, a great saving can be effected by putting running chickens on the stubbles, where they will clear up all the fallen grain that would otherwise be wasted. This practice is not nearly so generally followed as it ought to be, although the custom is more or less general in Eastern Sussex. That part of the county, however, does not produce much corn nowadays, but there are many places where corn is a staple crop, and where what is now wasted might be turned to good advantage. No doubt there are many farmers in various parts of Great Britain who, if approached in the right way, would have no objection to other people's fowls feeding on their stubbles for a month or two after harvest. The birds would do the land good, and, besides clearing up the useless corn, would consume the seed and destroy the plant of many kinds of weeds. Farmers, generally speaking, are not extensive chicken-rearers, many of them keeping nothing but a few fowls for laying, whose existence is spent about the stackyards. They might with advantage turn their attention more closely to the rearing of summer chickens, half of whose living could be picked up on the stubbles.

## THE MOULT.

FOWLS vary greatly as to the exact date of moulting, but, at the same time, it is a process through which they must all pass. It cannot, of course, be prevented, but it is possible to expedite matters by means of proper management and feeding preparatory to and during the process. We refer to the annual adult moult, not the changing of feathers in the half-grown chicken stage.

In the shedding of the old feathers and in the forming of the new, as can readily be imagined, the strain upon the system is considerable; hence the necessity of special treatment during this trying period. On the majority of farms the fowls are left to pass through the moult as best they can, and no change is made in the diet. While it is perfectly true that it is a natural process, and nature will provide for all contingencies, this fact must not be presumed upon too much, for the result of this is that nature is unduly taxed. The fact that what nature would accomplish were the fowls in their original state becomes much more difficult under domestication is generally overlooked, but such is nevertheless the case. It is usually found that fowls which moult early pass through the process much quicker than do those that commence later in the year, since all the new feathers, in the latter instance, have not formed before the cold weather arrives. At the approach of the moult the hens should be reduced in condition as much as is possible without lessening their stamina. Fat fowls are invariably much longer in casting the old feathers and longer in forming the new than those which are in a somewhat lean and hard condition.

Everything of a forcing or fattening nature must be studiously avoided. Green food in large quantities should be freely given, for it possesses manifold advantages. It has a cooling effect, and helps to allay the feverish condition of the body, the temperature of which is several degrees higher than under normal conditions. It is easy of assimilation itself, and assists in the digestion of other foods. In addition to this it contains a large proportion of the elements that help to form the new plumage. The most suitable grains during the process, especially when the new feathers are appearing, are oats and wheat, the former for preference; of soft foods, pea or bean meal and middlings are the most suitable. Small quantities of animal food may be used, but this should only be given once a day, provided that plenty of vegetables, either cooked or raw, are available; otherwise the meat has a tendency to prove too heating and causes irritation to the skin during the casting of the feathers. The foods enumerated are nitrogenous and form flesh and feathers; they maintain stamina and keep the birds fit and well, while they are in nowise fattening.

The foods to be avoided, since they considerably prolong the moult, are maize and hempseed, for these contain too much oily matter. In addition to feeding there are other matters deserving attention at this critical period in the life of a hen. Warmth and cleanliness are both important factors.

A frequent, though generally an unsuspected, cause of the prolongation of the moult is that the fowls are troubled with parasites. This is a great handicap and causes the victims much suffering



which might easily be avoided. Before and during the moult fowls should be examined, and if they are so affected they should be thoroughly washed with a lotion made from quassia chips, or with petroleum. A dust bath should also be near at hand, and even if there are no vermin to be destroyed, the dusting on the bare parts of the body will have a soothing effect. The male birds should be removed from the pens and kept apart until the new feathers are completely formed. The separation is beneficial to the males in that their vigour is restored before the breeding season is again in full swing, while the hens feel the benefit owing to the fact that the tender new plumage is protected, and the birds are strengthened before submitting to his attentions.

A. M. S.

## AUGUST NOTES FOR AMATEURS.

THIS is one of the turning-points of the year, when old birds cease their labour for a time and many of the early-hatched youngsters come into profit. There are sure to be plenty of early-hatched pullets laying by this time, and already we have heard of several instances of remarkable precocity. There is nothing remarkable, however, in a pullet commencing to lay when five to six months old, especially when she has been kept in confined runs and fed on stimulating food. Amateurs and small poultry-keepers usually find their pullets come on to lay early on account of the stimulating character of household scraps, which are largely used, whilst it must be remembered that the weather at this time of the year is favourable for egg-production.

At the same time, these early layers do not always make the most profitable hens, and we should prefer to see a pullet attain good size before she produces an egg, so that if any birds are seen to be reddening up for laying before they are well matured it will be a good plan to move them to fresh quarters and withhold some of the more stimulating food. It is true that eggs are worth producing just now, but those laid by immature pullets are generally small and unsaleable, and it should be remembered that if a pullet begins laying now she will probably fall into moult before the end of the summer, and will be idle during the winter, when egg-production pays best. Everyone who keeps hens for laying should concentrate attention upon getting as many eggs as possible during the winter, and that will not be possible if immature pullets are allowed to waste their energy by precocious laying during the summer.

We have already stated that if hens are shut up and put on to half rations for two or three weeks it will hasten the moult, for an early moult is desirable in view of winter egg-production. But when this is done the birds fall into lower condition than they would in the ordinary course of events, and it is necessary to aid their recovery by supplying a generous quantity of suitable food for maintaining strength and making new feathers. House scraps and meat will come in very useful, and a little maize may be used with the hard corn, together with a tablespoonful of hempseed daily.

Poultry-keepers must not cease their efforts to

exterminate insect pests, for until the cold weather comes they will continue to increase and do a great deal of damage, especially among the young stock, unless they are checked. As we have previously advised, limewash and creosote preparations are the best dressings for the woodwork, whilst nesting material should be cleared out and burned every few weeks. Unless these precautions are taken it will be difficult to keep young stock growing as they should do at this time of year.

Those who enjoy the advantage of running their poultry on farm-land should move their stock on to the aftermath and stubbles as soon as the crops



MR. ROBERTSON AND FAMILY. [Copyright.]

Mr. Robertson is one of the largest poultry-breeders in Western America.

are cut and carried. Meadow-land is greatly benefited by poultry, and the birds may be run more thickly than upon pasture. This is also the case with arable land, and the great advantage of putting poultry upon the stubbles as soon as the corn is cut is that they find a great amount of fallen grain, not to mention insect life.

Unfortunately, comparatively few are able to keep their fowls amid such ideal surroundings; but even on a small establishment a change from one run to another is beneficial to the stock, especially if the new run has not carried poultry for some little time. Grass should be kept short, and it is a good plan to run the scythe over it two or three times during the season, for the short hay will come in admirably for nest-boxes or for packing eggs.

Those who have table-chickens or ducklings to go off should try to put them on the market as early as possible, for with the advent of game prices come down with a run. During this month the seaside resorts generally prove the best markets for eggs and poultry, and one can sell fowls of all kinds, from plump young chickens to fat old hens, at good prices. Eggs will be saleable anywhere right up to next spring; but the table-poultry market becomes very slack after this month, and supplies are so heavy that prices are barely remunerative. This should convince one that early breeding is necessary to achieve success in the production of table-chickens.



## FEEDING FOWLS IN CONFINEMENT.

By A TOWN POULTRY-KEEPER.

WHEN I first started to keep fowls in close quarters I was told that the chief difficulty I should find would be the feeding. I did not think it much of a difficulty at the time because, like many others, I fancied feeding was a very simple matter, and that nothing could be easier than throwing food down to the hens. However, that was a good many years ago, and I have found out there was some common sense in that early advice, and I never miss an opportunity of repeating it to others.

The small poultry-keeper has more trouble in feeding than the man who runs his hens at liberty, because in the first place he has to find them every bit of food, greenstuff, meat, grit, and shell they

else. To a certain extent this kind of food is cheap and good, but one meal a day is plenty, and the hens must have corn for the second meal to keep them fit and healthy. However, scraps save a big piece off the food bill for the amateur, and those who use them with judgment will find they go a long way towards making small poultry-keeping successful.

Perhaps if I explain my own methods it will help others to adopt them. Scraps are carefully sorted out for use. Bits of meat and bones are fed separately once a day by way of a stimulant, and fresh and cooked greens are also given to the hens at any time, as these are beneficial and have not a fattening effect. Pieces of bread crusts, cooked potatoes, pastry, and cakes are put into a stock-pot to soak, and next morning they are warmed up over the kitchen fire, the liquid being strained off and a few handfuls of middlings mixed up with them



HATCHING ON A BIG SCALE.

[Copyright.]

There are two other incubator sheds of equal size on Mr. Robertson's farm at Arlington, California.

eat, and, secondly, because it takes a lot of practice to give confined hens enough food to do them good without overdoing it. We back-yarders are commonly supposed to keep our fowls for next to nothing, feeding them on scraps from the kitchen and any odds and ends that nothing else will eat. But that idea is not correct, and, if the truth were known, very few people use house scraps properly, and a good many ruin their hens with them. I have known people who have read in the poultry papers about house scraps being cheap and good for fowls, and have thrown down everything just as it came from the house, the result being that the birds got too much, and got it in the wrong form and at the wrong times. I have used house scraps pretty regularly for the last few years, but I should not advise anyone to try and do without anything

to make the stuff fairly dry. This kind of food cannot be thrown down in a small run, as it picks up too much dirt; it should be fed on a board or in a trough. Most hens eat it greedily, and, if they have a chance, will consume so much that they will do nothing all the rest of the day—which is the worst thing that could happen to them. I generally allow a good tablespoonful to each hen, and then, if they are still hungry, a few grains of corn are thrown down to make them scratch, and in the winter I make it a rule to do this immediately after the soft food, to prevent the birds from standing about and getting cold.

Feeding is a difficult task if there is no accommodation for scratching. Some town poultry-keepers keep their hens on a bare patch of hard ground, and never give them a chance to take any



exercise. Scratching is the only exercise available for closely confined fowls, and as an aid to digestion and for keeping birds fit is the finest thing in the world. I advise those who have very small runs to cover them all over so that the birds can scratch about in the day in all weathers; this investment will well pay for itself in a few seasons. With a good big shed one can feed cheaper and make the food do more good, and the hens will find something to do all day long.

The high price of wheat hits the small poultry-keeper very hard, for I have tried all kinds of grain, and there is nothing that suits fowls in small runs so well as wheat. If I could get a good sample of fat oats with the ends clipped off, as they sell them in some parts of England, I would use them instead of wheat just now, but, like most small poultry-keepers, I can only buy in small quantities, and local cornchandlers do not stock them unless they can get a good sale. The big breeder has an advantage over us in this respect, being able to buy extensively and at comparatively lower rates, and, of course, he has a better selection to choose from. A bushel of corn lasts me a good time, and there are many who buy it by the stone and half-stone, so we do not get a very big selection. Maize is a thing I never use, and do not consider it suitable for confined runs, but dari and buckwheat are useful, and white peas come in well for a change. Let me advise amateurs to make their own mixtures if they want a variety, instead of buying what the cornchandlers generally call poultry mixture. This usually contains a lot of light grains of various kinds, the idea being that inferior corn is quite good enough for hens. As a rule, there is a good deal of maize with it, plenty of light wheat and barley, a few oats or oat husks, and various smaller seeds, the whole being cheap and very attractive for the innocent amateur. Some merchants sell tons of this stuff every year in small quantities, but I can answer for it that there is no saving in it, and it is far better to buy sound, plump grain, and make up mixtures with wheat, oats, dari, buckwheat, and peas.

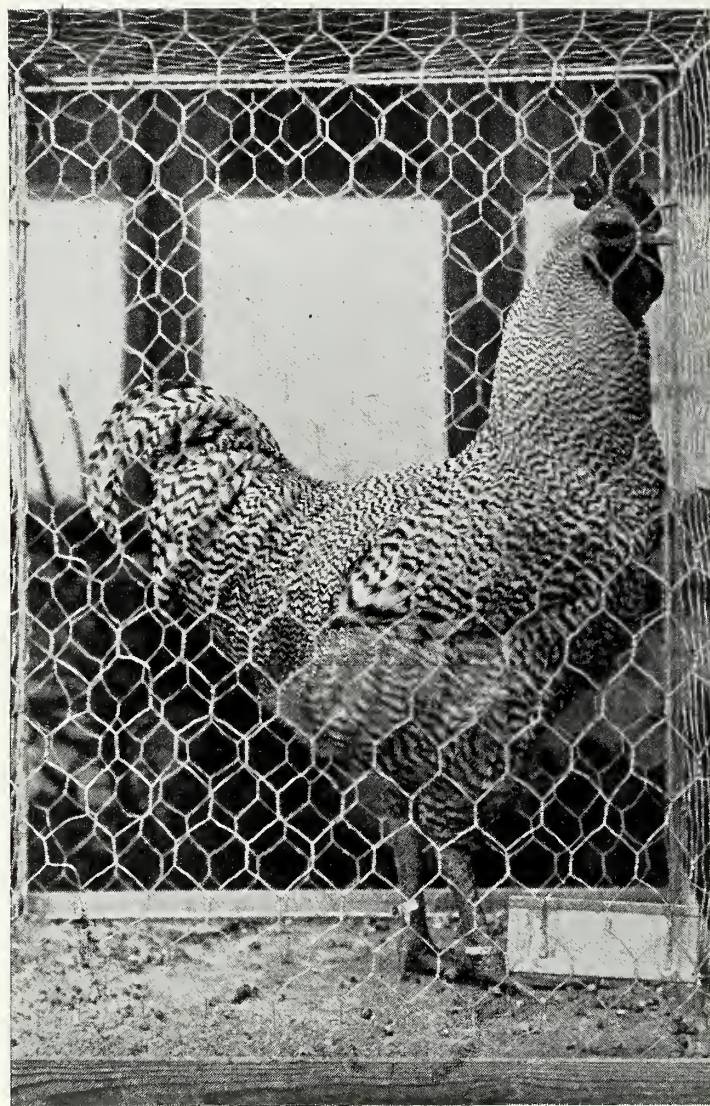
Most people who begin to feed fowls find difficulty in judging the proper quantity to give, and very few err on the side of meanness. Some give three meals a day, as much as the hens can eat each time, and even then they do not manage to get eggs. I made the same mistake myself, and only learned to give about the right quantity by keeping an eye on the birds. I soon found the three meals were making them too fat, and so I reduced the number to two. But that was not quite satisfactory, as the birds had to wait so long in between, and then they would eat more than was good for them. So now I give them three moderate feeds a day, the first consisting of house scraps, with a few grains of corn thrown among the litter to make them scratch; the second of vegetables, green and cooked, with a few bits of meat (except in summer time), and a few more grains of corn to set them scratching again; and the third all of grain, generally a small handful to each bird.

I am asked to say what it costs to feed my fowls. As near as I can tell, counting for everything—grit, shell, meat, and corn at retail rates—it works out at about a penny a bird per week. Some do it for less with plenty of scraps and cheap grain, but they do not get such good results.

## A DANISH POULTRY EXHIBITION.

By W. A. KOCK.

RECENTLY a poultry show was held at Odense, on the Island of Funen, restricted to birds hatched in the year 1910. As will be seen by the accompanying photographs, each pen held only one bird. Generally at Danish shows fowls up to



[Copyright.]

THE FIRST PRIZE PLYMOUTH ROCK COCKEREL.

At the Odense Show.

three years of age are exhibited, and every lot comprises either a cock and two or three hens or a cock and eight to ten hens. A further interesting feature of the Odense Show was that hens from the various breeding centres had the record of their first year's laying displayed on the cage.

The object of this show was to indicate which are the best fowls for breeding, and after judging the selected specimens were leg-banded with a silver ring for first and a bronze ring for second. These rings were marked "O.A.," meaning Odense Amtskreds, the name of the society, together with the year and number.

It was really the combination of a poultry show with selection for breeding. Many of the exhibits were sold for export to other countries.



## POULTRY - KEEPING AS A PROFESSION FOR WOMEN.

By MISS DOROTHY LAURANCE.

It seems strange that a profession needing business capacity, knowledge of poultry, and natural aptitude should so frequently be attempted by women entirely lacking in all the essential qualifications. A successful woman poultry-farmer from time to time interviews those who are entertaining the idea of poultry-keeping as a profession for women. A well-known and thoroughly successful woman farmer has stated that people who have come to her desiring to earn a living from poultry include those who have been financial failures all their lives and turn to poultry-keeping as a last resource; those who desire a country life, with nothing to do; those who have lost all their money by some unfortunate speculation; and those of weakened intellect. Often these have blamed the profession and not themselves, because they have only lost and not made money.

It is extremely important that all wishing to take up a work in which there is really money to be made should first find out what are the essentials of success and whether they individually possess those essentials ere they plunge headlong into a profession for which they are possibly totally unfitted. Poultry will not render a living income to anyone unless that person is willing to take trouble and to work hard and continuously; but a considerable amount of money can be made by a hard-working, energetic woman who devotes her whole time and attention to the matter. She must possess business qualities; moreover, she must be a good manager, have business capacity, and be of an enterprising disposition, while a knowledge of every detail of importance that is taking place on her farm is essential. She must, too, have some knowledge of markets.

Many people think that a few months on a poultry-farm is quite sufficient training. They are wrong, for this profession is no more and no less difficult than any other commercial undertaking; but it can be a very paying concern if properly

Anyone inexperienced in farm life should be warned of the greatest scourge to all poultry, and that is tainted land. Before buying a piece of land have it thoroughly examined by an expert, and



A PEKIN DRAKE.  
A winner at the Odense Show.

[Copyright.]



THE RING REFERRED TO ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE.  
[Copyright.]

managed, whilst much of the success depends on the efficiency and personal keenness of the owner of the farm.

even if it is not tainted at the moment, but shows signs of becoming so, then rather delay setting up the business than start on land which shows the least sign of foulness. Tainted land has been known to be wholly answerable for the total destruction of a farm which for nearly twelve years was a great financial success and a prosperous business in every way. After this time the land became tainted, and the owner of the farm, who had previously run it with such success, was forced to leave the place.

It is advisable not to restrict one's energies solely to poultry-farming if working for a living and possessing no outside means whatever, although an income can be made from fowls alone. But the difficulty is that the poultry plant must be so very large if the owner is entirely dependent on it. This means a somewhat heavy outlay at the beginning, and the expense of keeping up the place in a suitable way. Hence the poultry-farmer should supplement her income by jam-making in the summer, fruit-growing and bottling, and by the sale of dairy produce or honey. If relying on poultry alone as a single industry, the amount of land re-



quired is considerable, and so many birds must be reared that the cost of upkeep is necessarily heavy; hence more capital is required than many beginners have at their disposal. Under such circumstances it is wise to regard poultry as the staple industry, and do a little extra work in some kindred branch to supplement income. No woman should, however, be discouraged at the thought of her livelihood depending on an industry which may be insufficient for the demands made upon it. So little is needed in addition to the poultry that she can well undertake the work even if she depends solely on it, since jam-making or fruit-preserving and other industries can easily be worked in conjunction with the poultry.

There are two distinct types of poultry-keeping—the utility and the fancy. The utility side of the industry has one object in view, and one only—to provide eggs and birds for table use. Hence the utility farmer must devote her attention to so rearing her birds as to produce the best table-chickens. The young birds must have nothing which will make them coarse or tough for the table. A white skin goes far towards the quick sale of a bird at the market, and the fowl which will best bear the test of the cook's pinch at the gullet will give the greatest satisfaction. Also, as the sale of eggs is the business of the utility farmer, she should first know what are the best laying hens, choose them for her farm, then feed them in such a way as will aid them in laying throughout the greater part of the year. She must remember that much of her business profits will depend on providing eggs plentifully when they are most scarce.

Excepting to those who have been brought up on a poultry-farm, previous experience and some little training are essential for the work. Many a girl who was most successful at a Training College finds herself baffled when working quite alone on her own and first poultry-farm. Difficulties beset her now that she must act on her own initiative which she did not experience when free from responsibility as a student—exceptional instances occur, and she is worried at what is just the right thing to do. Hence it is advisable that all who are ready to start work on their first farm should be in touch with some Training College or individual who knows the work thoroughly and is prepared to help in a case of emergency. For instance, the success of incubation depends largely on immediate action of the right kind. If the farmer makes one false move out of ignorance and want of professional help the loss of hundreds of chicks and much money may follow.

In most cases it is not wise to expect profits from a new farm under two years. There must be time for the place to become known, a regular custom worked up, and original expenses paid off. As soon as the business is in thorough working order and thriving—not only in a promising condition, but actually thriving at that date—it is time to look for an assistant. On him or her very much depends, for the assistant's work should consist of the actual routine of the business—feeding of the birds and the survey of the work in detail. The owner of the place must not lose touch with affairs—she must know every detail that is taking place, only she can now take over the business department as her special branch of work. She alone should do this as the person whose interests are most at stake.

## A POULTRY-FARMING SUMMER.

By WILFRID H. G. EWART.

IT is an ordeal, dry and devastating, to have to spend one's summer within the precincts of a great town. It is an ordeal of dust and a ruthless heat, and pent-up living in close quarters. Relief is rare. Who does not know those trying days of heat and sunshine which come to London in the summer season? Days when it is a penalty to trudge the parched pavements, yet equally a tragedy to stay within doors; days when the garden shrubs of the squares are too dusty to afford satisfaction, and the parks are intolerably crowded, when the noise of the streets seems magnified tenfold by their glare.

Who in such weather and at such a season does not long for a green countryside, a shady, kindly quiet? London, we know, is vast, and its suburbs stretch like broad, encroaching arms far to the north, the south, the east, and the west. But transit is rapid to-day, trains of a morning and evening are fast and frequent, and many workers in the metropolis return nightly to an almost rural seclusion. In Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, southward in Surrey, and in Essex most of the villages have residents whom business takes to London at least three days a week. Such people live in cottages, in bungalows, or in villas—of a new and ugly sort—and it would be strange indeed did they not interest themselves in country pursuits.

For these provide the great charm and attraction of living out of London. We find the editor of a great London newspaper slaving with spade, hoe, and trowel in his garden of a morning; we find the stockbroker, the clerk, and the money-maker of whatsoever grade recouping spirits, reviving energies, among fowls or flowers, or whatever rural hobby happens to attract them most.

Gardening is very well, but there are many among these thousands who want a more active, more animate occupation. To such one can say, Have you tried a poultry-farming summer? Your two, three, four, or five acres of grass, shrubbery, or waste land—have you considered the possibility of turning this to the purposes of a paying and really valuable poultry-farm? We know—and we must remember—that some people have a rooted objection to poultry-keeping and its essential equipment on the score that it is untidy, unornamental, and expensive at starting. Some of these people who hail from the towns have a certain shyness and fear of investing in and dealing with live things. They are not used to the ways or the possible ills of fowls, and imagination pictures an impossible series of difficulties and horrors. A little experience, the smallest grain of practical knowledge, dispels these illusions.

Another objection commonly urged is that it would be impossible for a business man successfully to run a poultry-farm. Chickens could not be reared, the hens would not lay, nor would the breeding-stock breed. So far as concerns that, however, it is not at all necessary to breed chickens nor to rear them. Plenty of good poultry-keepers whose circumstances do not permit this—for chicken-rearing demands time, trouble, and space—keep laying-hens and pullets only, killing them off when they reach a certain age and buying a new stock. Still, it is more



satisfactory to rear at least a few young birds every spring, if only with a view to the table-poultry side.

The laying-hen requires really very little attention apart from the simple necessities of feeding and watering and being kept reasonably clean. The eggs must be collected, houses kept in good repair, nest-litter constantly replenished, broodies cooped, and grit and oyster-shell regularly supplied—but this comprises almost all that need be done. The odd jobs are such as pleasurably occupy summer evenings, Saturday afternoons, and Sundays.

Why not a poultry-farming summer? Because the expense of a start is great, because the trouble and worry of it bring an insufficient recompense? Surely not. The idea of these troubles looms large, perhaps, but the reality is comparatively insignificant. It is a question of buying two or three poultry-houses, of mapping out the little property—which is found to be an enjoyable occupation—and of stocking it, which is still more interesting and pleasant. Wire-netting and sharpened stakes constitute the real work, and for the man who wants active "relaxation" that is the job. The task of laying out a little poultry-farm presents no more labour nor difficulty than that of laying out a garden. It is a question of taste.

As to any doubt about the compensations of amateur poultry-farming, surely its quiet pleasures and mild excitements should suffice apart from any monetary consideration. A hen is a creature of the rare and peculiar kind which may be described as "companionable." Not quite in the sense that a dog is companionable, perhaps, but in the way of cheerful sounds, and, indeed, a universal cheerfulness which scarcely ever fails. If you have kept hens and must give them up, you miss them on account of their friendliness alone.

And, further, the question of fresh eggs is a very real one. It is so extraordinarily satisfactory to eat one's own eggs of a morning and one's own home-grown table-poultry; they are so much more interesting than the bought article. There is, too, a material recompense, for we know it is the small poultry-farm that pays. Mind you, it would not, and could not, pay merely as a summer concern, started with a rush and scurry and disbanded with the autumn leaves. Even so, however, little money need have been dropped on it and a great deal of fun will have been gained.

But one should not dwell too much on the financial side. We—some of us—know and appreciate the pleasures of a poultry-farming summer well enough to be almost careless of its profits. It is such a relief, such an entire undiluted relief, from the cares of a business life that one can afford to regard its prospects with an unmixed interest. A houseboat is all very well, a garden delightful in the fine weather, but neither can live and cackle and lay eggs.

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### Custom Hatching.

This is the term given in America to hatching plants where eggs can be brought and turned into chickens at a fixed rate. That has long been known in France, and is evidently taking on across the Atlantic. For reasons unexplained as yet, the system has never become popular in Britain, though there are great possibilities in it.

## AMONG THE BIRDS IN AUGUST.

By J. W. HURST.

### ON THE STUBBLES.

It is not only the feeder of turkeys and geese that should make free use of stubbles, but chicken-rearers are increasingly realising the advantages of such newly-harvested fields, and those who have no birds of these descriptions more often than not nowadays place a colony of laying hens where they may pick up the fallen grain. Nevertheless, stubbling requires some management and forethought. Turkeys and geese may be quickly driven to and from the stubbles, morning and evening until the ground is cleared—being tended or not during the day according to the circumstances; but unless the usual sleeping quarters are at too great a distance, it is better that the birds should return to them nightly than be temporarily housed on the ground. If there are trees in or around the fields it will be necessary to prevent the turkeys roosting in them, as they will be liable to do unless driven home in good time. Growing chickens that are sufficiently forward for the purpose, laying stock, or breeding-pens broken up for recovery of condition may, on the other hand, all be accommodated on the fields, using movable houses of sizes and shapes suited to the requirements. But whatever birds are placed on the stubbles they must be provided with water, fresh vegetable food, and grit; one or the other, and sometimes all of which are forgotten—with unfortunate results in some cases. Let the birds thoroughly clear the ground, but watch their progress in this direction and remove them as soon as necessary.

### SEPTEMBER GEESE.

Birds that are being run on for the September trade should be well grown, and during the few weeks before killing require some special feeding—the remaining work consisting rather in the covering of an existing frame than the growth of it. The size of the Christmas goose is not required in the September bird; but the general tendency is to prefer relatively large specimens in any market. The freedom of a suitable range may still be allowed; but, however good in character as regards the quality and quantity of food to be found upon it, some additional care must now be taken in hand-feeding. If these birds are on a sufficient extent of grass and the herbage is in good condition, they may be given a mash of ground oats and sharps in the morning, with a good feed of grain at night; but those on stubbles will not require much additional feeding.

### TURKEYS.

Young turkeys that have successfully "shot the red" are, by the inexperienced, in some cases taken but little particular notice of until the period arrives for fattening. There could be no greater mistake than this, although the cause of poor results may or may not be realised by those responsible for the neglect. These birds must be well looked after from start to finish, otherwise the size and weight required for the top prices will not be attained. If there is any shortage of natural animal food, ground raw bones will greatly assist growth and



development, the ground bones being mixed with such suitable meals as ground oats, sharps, barley-meal, with the addition, later on, of small boiled potatoes. But they must not be left behind at this season—they will never make up what is lost if they are.

#### DUCKS.

When the stock ducks have finished shedding and renewing their feathers they should be allowed the liberty of a good grass range, and if the surroundings are suitable they will not require much feeding. Their food must, however, be of the right sort, and on no account too fattening—otherwise they will be quite out of condition at the beginning of the laying season. Boiled rice, bran, and middlings may be employed in mash mixtures, of which they should not require a very large allowance; and if the range is of a desirable character and extent a sprinkle of good grain will be all that is needed without any soft food mixture.

#### FORWARD COCKERELS.

It is by no means unusual for forward cockerels to show symptoms of leg weakness at this season; but it is more common in some breeds than others. Generally this trouble is in a large measure due to the deficiency of the diet as regards bone-making constituents, and if this is the cause the affected birds must be placed in a quiet pen and fed accordingly. The use of forcing foods will produce weakness if the frame is made unduly heavy relative to the immaturity of the leg bones, in which case fattening foods must be eliminated, calcareous material supplied, and chemical food given. Extreme cases of leg weakness tend to develop a sort of chalky gout, and can seldom be properly cured.

### DISEASES OF GOSLINGS.

**G**EESE, both old and young, are peculiarly immune from disease, and for this reason the breeding of them is often more profitable than the breeding of other kinds of poultry, even though the prices realised fall a long way short of those which can be obtained for turkeys, fowls, or ducklings in season. Yet there are two specific diseases from which young geese suffer and by reason of which heavy losses are occasionally sustained by those who raise geese in large numbers. The more serious of these is a swelling and lameness of the leg, and in some parts of Ireland is known as "gloonach"—an affection of the knee. Observation of many cases of lameness amongst young geese has led me to the conclusion that in most cases it is due to poverty of blood, brought about by poor quality of food or insufficiency of feeding, but a predisposing cause is, without doubt, inbreeding as well as breeding from immature stock. Geese which are raised upon rich grass lands are rarely affected, unless the summer should be unusually dry and the grass so burnt as to become wholly devoid of sap and unsuitable as a food for geese. On the other hand, we find numerous cases of lameness occurring

among the geese which are raised upon land which is more suitable for tilling than for grazing, and where the grass is of a poor or dry quality. Another contributory cause of lameness is prolonged drought. Thus, when the summer is very dry, geese suffer much more from the peculiar lameness and swelling referred to than when it is fairly wet. Accordingly, it is advisable that when the weather is dry and the pastures have become parched symptoms of "gloonach" should be looked for. The first sign is a slight lameness, together with a desire to lie down frequently and to trail off from the flock when going to or coming from the feeding-ground. At this stage the affected bird should be put under treatment, for if allowed to remain with the flock for a few days acute lameness will supervene, together with great heat in the knee and foot joints and enlargement of one or both legs from knee to top of toes. If not taken in hand before this acute stage of the disease has come, there is little hope of curing it, and many goslings are lost by not being taken in time, for it causes them intense pain to move, and, after having lagged behind the flock for a day or two, they fall out of line and remain on some pond or stream, feeding upon water weeds of various kinds.

The remedy is simple and may be described in a few words. Put the affected birds into a house or shed having an even floor, littered not too heavily with straw; do not allow any water for swimming, and feed liberally upon nutritious mashes or on oats steeped in water. Drinking-water must, of course, be allowed, together with plenty of grit and charcoal. If a bucketful of ashes from wood or coal is thrown in a corner of the house it will suffice, and grit and lime may be supplied in the form of old mortar. Let this treatment be continued until all trace of lameness has disappeared, when the bird may be returned to the flock. The appearance of swollen legs amongst goslings may be taken as a sign that the flock requires more liberal feeding, and considerable trouble and loss may be averted by feeding the whole flock a meal of ground or steeped oats every evening.

Soreness of beak, head, and eyes is the only other complaint to which young geese are subject, and whilst the cause of this has also been attributed to poverty of blood, there is no doubt that it is caused not infrequently by an infestation of grass ticks of a small species, which fasten around the beak and eyes, causing pain, blindness, and loss of blood. Similarly, sore heads are caused by contact with thistles and other stinging plants in the pastures; but in all cases close observation of the flock will lead to early detection of the ailment, and treatment is easy when the case is taken at an early stage. It consists in confining the goslings as before described and feeding them liberally, whilst the affected parts may be dressed in various ways. The writer has found a daily washing of the head with warm water and carbolic soap a simple and quite effective remedy, and has also been successful in curing affected birds by frequent washings with water to which a few drops of carbolic acid, Condy's or Jeyes's fluid or similar disinfectant had been added. In both diseases the essential points of treatment are complete rest, nutritious food, and local treatment of the affected parts in the manner suggested.

M. V. T.



## PRODUCTION OF AND TRADE IN POULTRY.

*To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD.*

DEAR SIR,—One of the disadvantages under which the table-poultry business labours is the excessive railway charges on Irish poultry. In fact, I have now before the Board of Agriculture a case in point with reference to poultry from Belfast last Christmas.

There is no doubt in my mind that Great Britain is capable of supplying the bulk of its own requirements. It needs co-operation, so that when supplies are very plentiful, instead of being sold at ridiculous prices, they can be put into cold storage until the late spring and summer, when young stuff is not procurable.—Yours truly,

(Signed) FRED BESZANT,  
Poultry Salesman.

2, Monument Street, E.C.

*To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD.*

DEAR SIR,—One of our members, who is one of the largest fatteners of poultry in the district, strongly supports the marking of foreign poultry to enable the public to know what they are buying, which would help the sale of English poultry. He says that as it is now people buy a chicken and do not trouble to ask where it comes from, and the poulterers do not tell them, as they get a better profit from the sale of the foreign article. As an instance of the help that the marking of foreign poultry would be, he says that during the All-British Shopping Week, which was promoted a little while ago, when everyone asked for British goods, the price of home produce went up 6d. and 1s. per head, and it was one of the best weeks he has had all the season.

Personally my own opinion is that the foreign birds ought to be marked in some way, and so far as co-operation is concerned I believe it would prove of immense benefit to all engaged in agricultural pursuits, but whether it would be successful I am somewhat doubtful, owing to the innate conservatism and distrustfulness of new ideas shown by the average agriculturist.—Yours truly,

(Signed) EDWIN F. YOUNG  
(Hon. Secretary).

Sussex Poultry Association, Lewes.

*To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD.*

DEAR SIR,—You say all the attention is being given to the production of eggs. All I can say is that it is quite right to encourage a paying industry, which the production of eggs is. As to the poultry trade, there is a lot of money lost over it, and I fail to see the use of encouraging a rotten trade. What is wanted is a protection from the fraud on the public in having frozen chicken passed off as Surreys, and until that is done the poultry trade will not be worth encouraging—Yours truly,

(Signed) RICHARD C. BLUNDELL.

The Sussex Poultry Agents, Uckfield.

## POULTRY-KEEPING AND THE PRESERVATION OF FOXES.

### THE JOINT COMMITTEE AND THE SOUTHDOWN HUNT.

*To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD.*

DEAR SIR,—It seems that some misconception exists as to the action taken in this case, some writers in the Press going so far as to charge the committee with having acted without first ascertaining the facts. My committee wishes to remove that misconception, and instructs me to say that the advice given to poultry-keepers and smallholders living in the district hunted by the Southdown (viz., to take whatever steps seemed to them desirable and necessary to protect their own interests) was not given until repeated efforts had been made to induce the Hunt to adopt a reasonable attitude. The Hunt, on the contrary, stated that they could only pay compensation to farmers (and their employees) over whose land they hunted, and definitely refused to enter into the merits or demerits of the case my committee called their attention to.

Obviously we have here a question of principle, and the attitude taken up by the Hunt is in direct contradiction to the following resolution passed by the Masters of Fox Hounds' Association.

That the members of the Masters of Fox Hounds' Association present at the general meeting held at Tattersall's on Monday, May 30, 1910, unanimously recommend that fair compensation should be promptly paid for all loss of poultry by foxes, but that the same can only be dealt with by each individual Hunt.

And I may add still more so to the opinions expressed by them at the conference to the effect that Hunts which refused to pay fair compensation could expect no sympathy from the Masters of Fox Hounds' Association.

My committee wishes me to point out that it has not, either individually or collectively, any connection with any "militant" body formed with the avowed object of exterminating foxes; but that they have considered it their mission to promote harmony and good feeling between poultry-keepers and fox-hunters. The success that has attended their efforts in most cases has proved that such good feeling is usually possible, granted a little give-and-take spirit on both sides. In this case of the Southdown Hunt, however, the rule laid down by them makes conciliation impossible.

If the Hunt had argued that the farmers gained in other ways by the existence of the Hunt, and therefore their available funds should be devoted to compensating the small men who could not possibly gain, my committee, whilst not acquiescing in this doctrine, would have recognised some elements of rough justice in it; but their present method is a gross injustice to all those who have no leverage by which to enforce their claims.

My committee expressly refrained from suggesting any particular action, believing that those with local knowledge of the conditions existing in the Hunt would be better able to decide what methods would be most likely to prove successful in bringing home to the Hunt authorities the desirability of modifying their attitude.—Yours faithfully,

L. W. H. LAMAISSON (Hon. Sec.).

July 5, 1911.



## COLONIAL & FOREIGN NOTES.

### The Rhode Island Station Report.

The annual report of the Rhode Island Experiment Station tells of continued poultry work, more especially in blackhead of turkeys, losses in broiler chickens, fowl cholera, and breeding experiments. It is recognised that much of the ground devoted to poultry at Kingston is not very favourable to poultry, and a call is made for increased equipment, which we hope may be provided. One notable sentence may be reproduced:

Experiments are also in progress for the purpose of learning if anything definite can be accomplished by way of treating infected land so as to render it again suitable for poultry.

### Restrictions in South Adelaide.

Proposals have been made that regulations shall be imposed with regard to poultry-keeping in Adelaide, and that where sanctioned the premises shall be frequently inspected. The *Adelaide Chronicle* says that "it is an open secret that hundreds of premises in these areas are infested with poultry tick to a degree which is really shocking. In addition to this there are disease-infested premises from which disease spreads all over the State."

### An Egg Bride.

"Because he wrote his name upon a nice fresh egg while he was packing a crate for shipment to the East" (says an American paper), "Edward Taylor, of Alexandria, a grocer's clerk, was wedded last week to Miss M. Graynor, Brooklyn, New York. Miss Graynor is reputed to be the daughter of a wealthy man. When she was about to eat the egg for breakfast she noted the name and address on the shell, and wrote to the young man, more as a joke than anything else. Later, photographs were exchanged, and the marriage of the happy couple followed. Friends have received wedding announcements packed in cotton eggshells neatly inscribed with the address of the future home of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, of Brooklyn."

### "The Country Gentleman" (Albany, N.Y.).

Eighty years is a long record for a newspaper to be in one family, with founder, his son and grandson successively occupying the editorial chair. Such has been the case with our contemporary named above, and the present-day representatives of the Tucker family may well be proud of their history and the influence they have exerted upon American agriculture. For many years the *Country Gentleman*, formerly the *Albany Cultivator*, has maintained a regular section devoted to practical poultry-keeping, and was among one of the earliest agricultural organs to do so. From July 1 of the present year this paper has become the property of the Curtis Publishing Company, of Philadelphia, with whom we wish it a long and influential history.

### Major Norton, D.S.O.

This gentleman, who for the last five years has acted as Trade Commissioner for South Australia in Europe, and who, it will be remembered, took part in the 1907 Second National Poultry Confer-

ence, has resigned that position to accept a directorate with Messrs. R. W. Davidson and Co., Ltd., of Glasgow. He has done much for the development of the poultry industry in his Colony. A portrait of Major Norton was given in the *ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD* of February, 1909 (Vol. I., page 292).

### Laying Competition in Natal.

The Utility Poultry Club may well be proud of its pioneership. Laying competitions are springing up everywhere. It is now announced that a six months' test is to be conducted at Cedara, Natal. The only novelty is that the parents of the competing birds must be owned by the competitor. There is much to be said for such a regulation.

### "National Poultry Magazine."

The *Poultry Monthly*, of Syracuse, N.Y., U.S.A., comes under a new name, as given above, and in a new dress. It has a promising appearance, and we wish it all success. Mr. W. E. Rice is the English correspondent.

### Prices of Eggs in New Zealand.

The reason why our Southern Colonies have practically ceased to ship eggs to the Mother Country is the high prices obtainable there. The *New Zealand Poultry Journal* says that immediately after Easter eggs rose to a high price. The egg market at Wellington has been 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d. per dozen; Dunedin, 2s. to 2s. 3d.; Auckland, 1s. 7d. to 1s. 10d.; and Christchurch, 1s. 10d. to 2s. 1d. No wonder they are kept at home!

### Capon Growing in New Jersey.

In one section of the State of New Jersey Capon growing is a leading feature of farmers. As giving an idea of the business, the *Reliable Poultry Journal* says that one firm of buyers purchased upwards of 41,000lb. of Capons last December, 48,000 in January, and nearly 50,000 in February. Another firm buys about 75,000lb. per month in the height of the season in one district. The prices paid range from 23 cents (11½d.) to 30 cents (1s. 3d.) per pound. One man, Mr. W. H. Ellis, of Crosswicks, is a professional "caponer," and he often operates upon 35,000 to 40,000 in a season. His charge is 3 to 5 cents per bird and expenses, and his rate fifty an hour, so that the pay is good.

## POULTRY INDUSTRY IN GERMANY.

MR. EDWARD BROWN, F.L.S., hon. secretary of the National Poultry Organisation Society, has returned from his second visit to Germany, where he has completed the observations begun last autumn, of which the Interim Report in the January Journal of the National Poultry Organisation Society has awakened so much interest throughout this and other countries. In these two journeys Mr. Brown has visited nearly all parts of the German Empire, save those upon the Russian Frontier, and has received a hearty welcome and ready assistance. He hopes that the complete report will be issued in the early autumn.



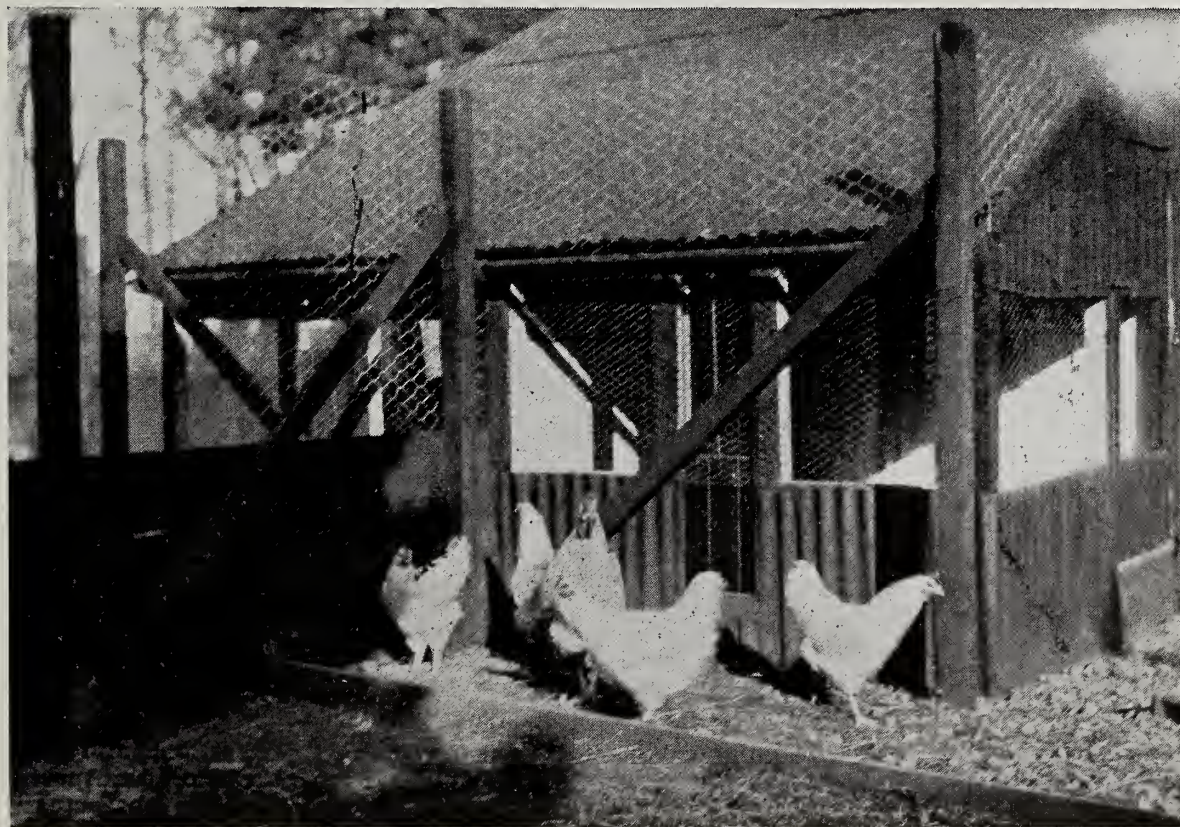
## TWO IRISH VIEWS.

Ireland is much to the fore at the present time in connection with the poultry industry, and at last it is being realised that there are enormous possibilities in the poultry business. The Department of Agriculture has rendered splendid service in this direction, and it is largely owing to its efforts that such great headway has been made during recent years.



ON A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL IN CO. ROSCOMMON.  
Here women are trained to become useful wives to farmers

[Copyright.]



BREEDING-PEN AT THE GOVERNMENT FARM AT GLASNEVIN.

[Copyright.]

By the use of trap-nests the best layers are selected and sent away to the rural districts.

While the conditions in Ireland are totally different to those met with over the greater part of Britain, and it would be undesirable to adopt exactly similar methods, the fact that at an expenditure of £7,500 per annum the value of eggs and poultry exported to Britain has increased by £853,000 in six years is an object-lesson of what can be accomplished by a judicious expenditure of public money, when applied practically and systematically.



## YOUNG STOCK IN SUMMER.

By FRED. W. PARTON.

THE months of July and August are very trying for young stock, for chickens, ducklings, geese, and turkeys all, more or less, show signs of lassitude, incidental to the hot days of summer. This is a period through which they must all pass; at the same time, much may be done to mitigate, if not entirely eradicate, their unsatisfactory condition. This is considerably more easy of accomplishment when it is fully realised what the causes are for this flagging. Among these are included overcrowding, stale ground, want of change, insufficient shade, and inattention to cleanliness. These are all items in the management of farm poultry which are scrupulously attended to at other seasons of the year, but somehow they are more often than not sadly neglected in the summer. Presumably the reason for this is that it is an extremely busy time in other branches of farm and general work. While this is so, it is no reason why the fowls should be neglected in any way. The young growing stock require continual attention, and they must not wait upon the convenience of the owner, or they may receive a check which if not overcome at once may have disastrous results when the time of profit arrives.

It is not a difficult or expensive matter to avoid the dangers I have enumerated. Taking them in the order mentioned, overcrowding is perhaps the greatest of all evils, and it is a subject on which much has been written; yet much more must be done before the ordinary poultry-keeper will realise the vital importance of combating the tendency—which is a common failing—to keep a greater number of birds than circumstances warrant. It is difficult, in fact, it is quite impossible, to say exactly how many chickens may be kept upon a given area, and it is equally impossible to give the correct cubic measurement per chicken in their sleeping quarters. The question can only be satisfactorily settled by the man on the spot who uses some common sense and judgment. Coops, brooders, and chicken houses soon indicate whether they shelter too many inmates by the smell when they are opened first thing in the morning. Taking this as a guide, it can be determined whether or not the numbers must be reduced. A proper system of ventilation goes far to mitigate the evil of overcrowding, but however perfect may be the system adopted, it will not make a house that is capable of comfortably accommodating forty chickens three months old hygienically suitable for the same number when they are six or seven months old. The space must be increased pro rata with their increasing size. Open-fronted houses are distinctly advantageous during the summer, in that they considerably lessen the danger of overcrowding. This type of house should, however, be so constructed that the inestimable benefit of fresh air can be secured without a draught. This must, at any cost, be prevented; as a matter of fact, it would be a bold hazard to say which is more to be dreaded, a stuffy, ill-ventilated house or a draughty one? There is, however, no reason why there should be either, provided that the elementary principles of housing are observed.

On all well-regulated farms the worst of the culls have been disposed of, or else are undergoing

preparation for table use; and of the remainder further reduction in numbers may be made by drafting out into smaller flocks, and sorting them, as nearly as possible, so that each flock is made up of chickens similar in age and size. The same applies to chickens as to laying pullets—they always do better when kept in small batches. Especially is this so when chickens of widely different sizes are kept together; these small members of the flock are compelled to feed on the very fringe of the crowd, and have to be content with snatching the few grains which happen to



EXCELLENT SUMMER QUARTERS. [Copyright.]

come their way. A number of these small and badly nourished chickens will detract from the appearance of the whole lot, and the longer the small ones remain the worse becomes their condition, looking half-starved and half-feathered. Such chickens are frequently regarded as culls, and they are left to look after themselves. This is a mistake, for often they are by no means culls, but merely later hatched than the others. It is largely a matter of comparison, which is detrimental to the younger, and redounds to the credit of the earlier hatched birds. If all these small chickens are gathered together and separated from the general lot their appearance is considerably better, and it is wonderful the change that a few weeks, with good feeding and a little extra care, will make in their size. These so-called culls very often develop into better birds than those which gave greater promise at the beginning. Not only do the young stock benefit by this separation, but it overcomes the danger of crowding, both in the sleeping quarters and on the land.

Stale ground is also responsible for keeping young stock in a backward condition, and frequently this is an unsuspected cause, unsuspected for the simple reason that the land is not actually foul, and as no direct disease is traceable to it, some other reason is looked for. Now and again there are outbreaks of disease that affect the poultry-yards in whole districts. The origin of



this contagion, more often than otherwise, is due to germ-laden soil. Happily such cases are few and far between, since these matters are becoming more and more understood, and, consequently adequately guarded against. It is not, however, this advanced stage of land "sickness" which I give as the reason for flagging chickens, since the result would be much more drastic than just a temporary check to their progress. By stale ground is meant merely that the freshness has departed. Several batches of chickens, in all probability, have successively run thereon. At this time of year, when herbage is growing, a very few weeks' rest, especially when assisted by rain, will have a wonderful effect in restoring the freshness to the land. On many farms it is the custom to allow ducks, geese, and turkeys to cluster together in one flock. This is decidedly wrong, for waterfowl are different in all their habits from the other members of the poultry-yard. What might be admirable conditions for the one would, in all probability, be the antithesis of what is best for the remainder. In addition to this the danger of impure ground is intensified; in fact, under these conditions it would be a difficult matter to avoid it. A change to another part of the farm will prove of the greatest value to the growing stock; it will keep them growing, which should be the chief aim until they attain their maturity. Where a run on meadow land can be given it is advisable for them to have the full benefit accruing from so doing. This plan is not commonly adopted to the same extent as that of allowing them the run of the stubbles after harvest, although it is quite as beneficial to the birds, if not quite as economical so far as the saving in food is concerned.

Cleanliness in all things appertaining to chickens is of the greatest importance, and unless this is attended to it is small wonder if they suffer a serious drawback. By cleanliness is not only meant the regular cleaning of the house, feeding, and drinking utensils; but in other directions, which are more widespread and drastic in their effect. Especially do parasites give trouble during the summer, for it is in the hot months that they are most troublesome, and the young of some of these species mature in ten days. It will thus be seen that unless the most rigid attention be given to cleanliness they will infest the chickens to an enormous extent. The presence of these minute creatures not only causes a great amount of suffering by irritation, but they weaken the constitution by the drawing of blood from the body. Chickens should be periodically examined, and if troubled in this direction immediate steps should be taken to eradicate the evil.

## ARE HENS PROFITABLE ON FARMS?

THIS is one of the series of twenty-five questions submitted to the farmers of Oregon by Professor James Dryden, of the Poultry Department of the Oregon Agricultural College. The question was directed to farmers on general farms who sell eggs or poultry at market prices—not to fanciers or special poultry-keepers who sell eggs and stock at fancy prices.

"A farmer has ideas of his own about such things," says Professor Dryden, "but he doesn't go out of his way very much to give the public the benefit of his ideas, and therein the public is the

loser. The regrettable thing is that very few farmers use a pencil and notebook in keeping chickens, so they must guess a good deal in answering such a question. By long association with fowls, however, throwing grain to them and gathering the eggs, he is able to form a fairly accurate estimate of the profit.

"If the farmers are losing money on the hens, it means a tremendous loss in the aggregate in the United States. If the loss should amount to 15 per cent. on the business, that would mean a loss of about \$100,000,000 to the farmers of the United States. One should give the farmers more credit for their business ability than to believe that they are going on year after year doing a business of over half a billion dollars a year if it were a losing proposition. But listen to what they say.

"Answers to the above question were sent us by 333 farmers, of whom 288 answered 'Yes,' twenty 'No,' and the rest were non-committal. A few qualified their answers, and I shall quote some of these. The decision on the question is almost unanimously in the affirmative. Later I shall give some evidence from the experiment station.

"Among the answers given by the farmers were the following: 'A profitable side line.' 'To a certain extent—receive income otherwise wasted!' 'Depends upon circumstances.' 'Very much so.' 'From 15 to 30 hens; over that is a nuisance.' 'Not in the strict sense of the word.' 'Yes, to pick up waste.' 'Yes, as a side issue.' 'Not unless you raise grain.' 'Yes, if kept warm in winter.' 'Of course.' 'Merely as a convenience.' 'Don't know yet.' 'To some extent.'

"One answers emphatically, 'Yes, more than hogs, sheep, grain, or fruit under present market conditions.' Another says, 'Yes, by all means.' Others say, 'Yes, best paying on the farm.' 'To a certain extent.' 'Yes, up to about 25.' 'Very profitable.' 'Yes, much company.' 'Yes, if you have good luck.' 'Yes, in moderate doses.' 'Yes, if not too many kept.' 'Only for family use where no grain is raised.' 'Yes, to a moderate extent.' 'Yes, if one owns his own farm.' 'Very profitable.' 'Yes, for family use.' 'Would not do without hens.' 'Yes, pay big profit.' 'When proper attention is given.' 'Not the way we keep them.' 'Yes, in a small way.'

"'With good houses, &c., yes; otherwise no,' says one; and another makes a similar reply, 'With proper care and attention, yes; but if not, I say no.' Others say, 'Yes, as well as anything else.' 'Very, if proper person has them.' 'Has not been so far.' 'Don't think much of it.' 'Will be when properly regulated.' 'The most profitable on farm of anything.' 'Fairly; total failure last year.' 'A small flock.' 'Large farm, yes; small farm, no.' 'If you have good hens.' 'Owing to the care they get.' 'Yes, if all did as well as the old hens.' 'Yes, on small place.' 'You bet I do.' 'Yes, if taken good care of and feeds are kept pure.' 'Yes, on a small scale.' 'Only in a small way.' 'Yes, sir; I got in it this year on a big scale.' 'Where grain is raised on the farm.' 'It helps some.' 'Yes, if systematic.' 'Yes, if properly handled, though I have not been particularly successful myself.'

The replies would seem to indicate that the profit is in proportion to the care given the poultry and the amount of the food raised on the farm.



## PROMOTION OF POULTRY-KEEPING.

By EDWARD BROWN, F.L.S., Hon. Secretary, National Poultry Organisation Society, Limited.

*[We reproduce the paper read by the Hon. Sec. of the National Poultry Organisation Society at the recent Dublin Poultry Conference, as it embodies valuable suggestions as to the lines upon which future developments should take place. If the poultry industry is to meet the needs of our great populations it must be progressive.—EDITOR.]*

THE growth in consumption of eggs and poultry throughout the civilised nations of the world forms one of the most remarkable developments of recent years. In 1907 an estimate was made that the total value had reached the sum of two hundred million pounds sterling per annum. Later information indicates that, apart from natural increase since the time named, the computation made was too low, and that the yearly bill is now about two hundred and fifty million pounds sterling, of which the United Kingdom accounts for between 8 and 9 per cent. Everywhere the same growth is manifest. British Colonies and foreign countries, which have heretofore been our main sources of extraneous supply, are finding rapidly-advancing demand within their own borders, with steadily increasing prices. There is no exception to this general rule. Russia, the only country which has substantially increased her exports to the United Kingdom, is rapidly extending her area of production. To what extent her supplies may yet grow it is impossible to suggest. A new factor, however, is Germany, which, with its large and steady advance in population, and the consequent pressure upon her food resources, is profoundly influencing our foreign supplies. My recently published "Interim Report on the Poultry Industry in Germany," which I hope to complete at an early date, deals with this question, and it is not necessary for the facts therein stated, and the conclusions arrived at, to be repeated. Those who desire to do so can study that report. Sufficient is it to say that, mainly owing to German requirements as evidenced by growing consumption, our Continental supplies have been largely reduced during the last six years. From Austria-Hungary and Italy the volume of eggs imported has in five years fallen about 50 per cent. The same is seen in other directions. In 1900 Canada shipped to Britain eggs to the extent of 807,702 great hundreds; last year there were only 1,860 great hundreds imported from the Dominion. In 1906 we received chickens to the value of £243,750 from the United States; last year the total had been reduced to £88,177, a little more than one-third. These figures compel our attention. In the last-named instances the cause is to be found in the greater consumption within the countries named.

There can be no question that Colonial and foreign supplies of eggs and poultry, amounting to upwards of £8,000,000 per annum, have greatly stimulated consumption in the United Kingdom. Had these been unavailable it is probable that the products named would not have entered into the daily food of our people to the extent that is now seen. As a result demand has advanced greatly, though not to the extent that is possible and probable. Considering its size and population no

section of the United Kingdom has done so much as Ireland to meet this demand, thanks to the persistent efforts put forth for development of the poultry industry. That fact is, to the writer, of special interest and satisfaction. My first important inquiry was in 1888, when commissioned by the "Weekly Freeman" to make a survey of the poultry industry of Ireland, at a time that the needs were greatest, and rural conditions bad in the extreme, with no attempt on the part of public bodies to promote and organise this branch of agriculture. Respecting what has since been done we shall doubtless learn more during this Conference. The most sanguine of us twenty-three years ago hardly anticipated that poultry-keeping would return something like £4,000,000 per annum to Irish farmers, as was the case last year.

My purpose, however, in this paper is not to speak of what has been done. That tells its own story, and is satisfactory to all concerned—as a beginning. What we have now to consider is how to meet the requirements of the future, to fill up the void created by reduced imports from abroad, to anticipate the changes which are not yet fully realised, to improve our methods in accordance with modern conditions, to utilise the greater experience gained, to seek for better, and may be newer, systems of production, to take advantage of educational and experimental opportunities and of research now increasingly open to us, to organise production and sale of the produce so that our nearness to markets shall yield the fullest possible returns, and to open fully a door which is as yet but slightly ajar. It is not enough to merely tread the same path as traversed by our forefathers. The lines of development will not only be wider, but must differ in many respects. To this end the most important factors are educational facilities for all grades of poultry-keepers, experimental work in order to discover and prove better methods and arrive at the desired results by shorter, speedier and cheaper ways, and organisation in marketing and sale, combined with a readiness on the part of farmers and others to take advantage of such facilities, to absorb knowledge and experience wherever and whenever available, and to adapt themselves to the altered conditions of later days. Our main object is to benefit producers, to conserve and extend the national resources. All other aims are secondary.

First and foremost must come the stock which form the basis of all our operations. Within the last forty years the range of breeds and varieties of poultry has been enormously increased. Several of the most popular and most valuable of our present-day poultry were unknown or unrecognised in 1870. That is to the good. Others will doubtless be introduced or evolved in the near future,



My purpose is to ask whether we have made the most of what we already possess. Enlargement of choice may be a positive hindrance. Indiscriminate racial selection is, generally speaking, a mistake. A measure of uniformity of the fowls met with over a given area, where the environment is equal, is natural, provided, of course, that the breed or breeds are suitable thereto. Let me remind you that France built up her poultry industry in this manner, and later observations have confirmed the wisdom of so doing. Nearly all the most successful developments of recent years have been on these lines. Egg-production in Denmark, at Petaluma in California, in the State of Rhode Island, and in Australia; table-poultry in South-Eastern England, in Buckinghamshire, in various departments of France, in East Flanders, and in the South Shore district of Massachusetts, have in each individual instance named mainly been with one breed, modified here and there by introduction of a second. It may be pointed out that when such is the case it is much easier to appreciate the racial values, and a single breed is capable of more rigid and careful selection, generation after generation, than is possible when all sorts are found in a district, whilst the introduction of fresh stock of a high quality is made easier. I submit that the time has arrived when our main effort should not be restricted so much, as in the past, to increases in the number of fowls kept, at any rate over those sections where the most progress has been made, though the United Kingdom could double if not treble its stock of poultry, as advancement of the productiveness of what we now possess. A good deal has been done in this direction, but much remains to be accomplished for improvement. Many farmers "keep" poultry in the literal sense. It ought to be the other way—namely, that their poultry shall help to keep the farmers. Questions such as size of egg, in accordance with market requirements; number annually produced per hen; time of year when produced; early maturity of chickens and ducklings; quality of flesh in all classes of poultry are of supreme importance. Attainment of these mean increased profits, to which our efforts should steadily and constantly tend. To this end unity of action is of primary importance. There are questions of feeding which need to be reconsidered, with a view to reducing the cost of production, but I can do no more than make mention of what is a most important problem.

One of the main difficulties which meets us on all sides in respect to eggs is irregularity of supply, which appears to be growing worse every year. Unless remedied, the tendency will be to make eggs scarcer and dearer in winter, thus checking consumption, and more plentiful and cheaper in the spring. We must attempt a solution of this problem. My own view is that it is partly, if not mainly, due to late hatching and to the selection of unsuitable breeds of fowls. I cannot but feel that the establishment of hatching centres, either upon a co-operative basis or as a result of private enterprise, will contribute to finding a remedy for the present state of affairs. It should have the effect of securing greater control of quality and advancing production. Whilst the natural method of hatching and rearing is, and probably will always be, better than the artificial, the last-named is indispensable even though supplemental. We can-

not dispense with incubators and brooders. The poultry industry could not have made the enormous strides already indicated had these machines not been brought to their present stage of perfection. To many farmers these are, however, more expensive than they can afford, or they are doubtful as to the gains, and the line of least resistance is adopted. If chickens are purchasable at a reasonable price, or eggs can be hatched at one of these centres, that will go far to remove the difficulty referred to.

Passed is the day when the maintenance of a few fowls around the homestead or cottage can be regarded as satisfactory. To increase the number of the stock without totally changing the ground is bound to fail, owing to the increased manurial constituents added to the soil. What is known as the portable house system has done much to secure distribution over the land. Our ideas as to the houses or huts employed for poultry are rapidly changing. Instead of close, ill-ventilated, often overcrowded dwellings for the fowls, what are termed open-fronted houses, by which is meant that one side is wire-netted, thus ensuring a regular and systematic current of air to the inmates, have proved to yield a greater egg-production, even in winter, than when the walls are solid, due to the higher standard of health and vigour of the inmates. There is, however, a further development which will promote that intensification needed in many districts, known as the colony house system, by which a hundred or even more birds can be kept to the acre for one year, at the end of which period they are bodily removed to fresh ground, and that vacated is not used by fowls for three or four years; in fact, until the manure in the soil has been utilised by cropping. The reduction in cost of feeding, especially where arable land is occupied, under this system is an important point, for the fowls thus become part of the regular rotation. The work is simplified and such a method must enormously enhance production. I submit that persistent efforts should be put forth to popularise this colony method, which avoids all necessity for divided runs and fencing, thus greatly reducing the capital required for equipment. It has abundantly proved its success. The value, also, of trap-nesting is now recognised, but that is the work of specialists, not ordinary farmers. One other point may be mentioned in connection with artificial rearing—namely, what are called "Philo" or fireless brooders, in which no artificial heat is applied. I have only tested the system to a very limited extent, and should not feel justified in advocating its adoption without further experience. But the results were so remarkable as to suggest the inquiry whether we may not be wrong in thinking that a hen gives warmth to her brood, and that it is possible in covering them she simply protects the chickens against loss of body heat, which is totally different. It is eminently a case for careful and exhaustive experiments. Should it prove successful, one of the widest-reaching revolutions in the poultry industry will have been brought about. The work of rearing artificially will be simplified and the cost greatly reduced.

During the past thirteen years, thanks primarily to the enterprise and labours of the Utility Poultry Club, whose example has stimulated others both at home and abroad, we have had an annual series



of laying competitions in England, one of which extended over a period of twelve months. It is difficult to form any judgment as to the practical value of these contests in respect to the productiveness of the general fowls of the country, but that the tests have had a share in the improvement already referred to is undoubted. Probably, however, the greater benefit has been educational, direct and indirect. These competitions have induced farmers and poultry-keepers to introspective examination, to inquire why their own hens did so badly in comparison, which is the first step towards finding a remedy. What has been called "divine discontent" has been engendered. The interest awakened has been great indeed. We can hardly expect that more than a permeation of good laying strains can follow on the scale attempted. What has been taught and demonstrated is that properly selected and treated hens will produce eggs to a considerable extent in winter, and that the margin between cost of feeding and prices realised is in some cases very considerable. Farmers and others have thus been led to regard poultry-keeping with totally different eyes, for actual results cannot be gainsaid. There are several points respecting these laying competitions worthy of discussion and reconsideration, more, however, as to detail than principle. Suffice it to say that the time has arrived when they must be conducted on a larger scale over periods of one or two years. That is not possible to a voluntary society, and here, as in our Colonies, the educational value should secure adequate grants in support from public funds.

The advancing needs of our great populations on the one hand, with the importance of enhancing the volume and quality of eggs and poultry of all kinds sent out by producers on the other, compel us to look for and welcome new branches of the industry, which must expand if it is to be all that we desire to see accomplished. Let us be receptive of new ideas. Who could have imagined fifteen years ago that the day-old chick trade would have assumed its present dimensions? Scores of thousands of these baby fowls are now sold every year, and there is room for hundreds of thousands.

Another field of operations, especially for those who keep the lighter races of fowls, is the production of milk chickens, for which there is a fair demand if of the right class, produced at the right period. I do not believe that breeding these little table-birds can be carried out as a separate branch of the industry. It has been tried, but without success. As part of a larger scheme, a profitable outlet is offered for the young cockerels.

It is unnecessary to show the importance of improving the quality of our table-poultry by right systems of fattening. Where the conditions are favourable, that should follow, if milk is available. It is, however, useless trying to run egg-production and table-poultry together.

A new development in this country would be the production of winter fowls, weighing 8lb. to 10lb., for which I feel confident a great and ever-growing trade might be secured. What is to be seen in the South Shore district of Massachusetts and in East Flanders, Belgium, might be repeated here. Personal observations in both those countries, as recorded in my Reports on America and Belgium, have revealed what others have done, and

it will be no reflection upon us if we emulate their example. I know one commune in East Flanders where ten years ago hardly a chicken was raised; now the output is about 50,000 per annum. There is no limit in sight to this branch were it taken up systematically and thoroughly. The same may be said as to what are called in America Squab Turkeys—that is, three-months-old birds weighing 5lb. to 6lb.—and we should seek to extend the breeding of ducks and green goslings where the conditions are favourable. Also there is an opportunity for a greatly increased production of winter turkeys, more especially on larger farms and in the more thinly populated sections of the country. Under suitable conditions and with efficient management there is no more profitable branch of poultry-keeping.

Extension in many parts of the United Kingdom might also be found in the breeding of laying stock, for sale when about three months old to farmers in other sections, who would buy by the hundred. In this way those who live on the open areas could meet the requirements of such as are in the more densely populated counties. I hope to see the time when poultry sales will rival lamb and sheep fairs in importance and popularity. And, further, why should not in butter districts the eggs and butter produced there be manufactured into saleable products, such as lemon curd, rendering the same service to poultry-breeders as have jam factories to fruit-growers?

Farmers are now, and always will be, the main source of supply for eggs and poultry. Steady and persistent efforts should be made to extend farm poultry-keeping throughout the kingdom as in the past, for it is capable of great extension. The results already achieved speak for themselves. Correlative with the extension of the number of fowls in the hands of farmers and adaptation to modern conditions, we may encourage intensification on special lines. That will, however, be of slower development. We should not restrict ourselves to what everyone else is doing. There must be progression, but wisely controlled. Poultry-breeding and land cultivation should ever go hand in hand. This much we have learnt by painful experience. The advance made shows that the time is in view, though still distant, when we shall have to ask our antiquarian museums to provide a niche for the last man who declares that "poultry don't pay," and there display him as a mummified specimen of an extinct race.

Central and local authorities are awakening from their long sleep, as are the people who can make or destroy these bodies. Education, production, organisation, are equally important, and must march side by side. I take it that one of the objects of this Conference is to give guidance to all concerned and to supply that impelling force which will overcome every obstacle, whether raised by the inertia of governmental or educational bodies or by the lethargy of individuals. We must awaken the sleepers everywhere. One method I commend to the serious attention of this Conference is by means of Demonstration Trains, such as that which ran through parts of South Wales in April of last year, organised jointly by the Agricultural Organisation Society and the National Poultry Organisation Society.



## A YORKSHIRE POULTRY - FARM.

THE poultry-farm belonging to Mr. J. W. P. Cussons, of Grove House, South Kilvington, Thirsk, was visited one sunny day in July, when everything was looking its best, since the previous day's rain had freshened up the place, even if it were somewhat detrimental to the cut hay, which lay ready for carting. South Kilvington is of the old-world type of village—picturesque and quiet. It is one mile from Thirsk, a market town of considerable

bred purely with a view to exhibition. At the same time, he does not entirely lose sight of the fact that he resides in a great egg-producing centre, and therefore White Leghorns and Rhode Island Reds, both single and rose-combed varieties, are kept for utility purposes. These, however, may be dismissed from our remarks after stating that they are good typical specimens of their respective breeds, and fully justify their existence by giving plenty of eggs,



SOME OF THE BREEDING-PENS AT GROVE HOUSE.

[Copyright.]

importance, in the very heart of an extensive agricultural district. Thirsk is among the best and biggest egg markets in England, and every Monday buyers come from Leeds, Bradford, and other densely-populated districts of the vast hives of industry, where eggs are such a large item in the dietary of the people.

After a drive through some very charming country we reached Grove House, with its recently-equipped poultry-farm, eleven acres in extent, and possessing the great advantage of being so situated that more land can be acquired if business warrants extension, which, by all accounts, seems highly probable. The breeds in which Mr. Cussons specialises are Buff, Black, and White Orpingtons and White and Columbian Wyandottes. These birds are

which considerably augments matters financially every market day.

Mr. Cussons has been only one year in occupation of his present farm, previous to which he owned the Model Poultry Farm, Thornton-le-Dale, near Pickering. The farm is admirably adapted for poultry, and has been capitally laid out, the main avenue being about one hundred yards in length, with ranges of poultry-houses on either side. The avenue is sufficiently wide to leave a broad path between the rows of houses and runs, and this space is utilised as a nursery for the very young chickens. Beyond the avenue is a two-acre paddock devoted entirely to the rearing of chickens when they have got over the cooping stage. This paddock is surrounded by trees, and all round the enclo-



## TRADE SUPPLEMENT

sure are placed sheds and chicken-houses. Mr. Cussons is a great believer in shade and shelter, and in every stage of his chickens' growth this, it is to be observed, has been carefully studied, which doubtless is one reason why the colour of his Whites is so superb. At the time of our visit five hundred youngsters were enjoying the freedom of this two-acre plot. At first sight this might be thought too many, but it is not so, since the two acres were absolutely unused for the purpose before the chickens were placed thereon. Immediately adjoining the paddock are five acres of meadowland, with the hay ready for carting, and when this is done the chickens will have the run of the five acres, while the vacated paddock will have a rest until the time comes for a repetition of the season's work. During the interim it is occupied by cockerel-pens, but as the cockerels are kept in confinement the land is resting. Another meadow is occupied in the same manner by the present season's breeding stock whose duties are over for the time being, so that they may rest in peace and quietude during their moult. Other space is devoted to

of an excellent type, being designed by Mr. Cussons himself and made on the farm. They are 13ft. long, divided into two compartments, 9ft. for the scratching-shed and 4ft. for the roosting portion, with open fronts, wire-netting and glass, so that either may be used according to the condition of the weather. The partitions dividing the two are loose, so that they may be removed if required, thus being converted into long, open-fronted sheds. The runs to each house are 14yds. square, and this accommodates the breeding-pens, consisting of three hens and a male bird.

So far as the stock is concerned, they leave little to be desired, and it is a difficult matter to do full justice to them. They must be seen fully to appreciate their worth. Mr. Cussons has over one thousand young, old, and middle-aged birds, many of which will be seen in the exhibition-pen during the coming season. Special mention must be made of the cockerel which was reserve at the Palace, and the same at the Buff Orpington Club Show in 1910. It certainly is a grand specimen, having an excellent colour, sound throughout, a clear eye



FEEDING-TIME.

[Copyright.]

the young pullets which have been selected for next year's breeding; so that it will be seen they have every opportunity for developing and getting into good condition, which is such a great asset for show purposes.

The houses down the principal avenue are

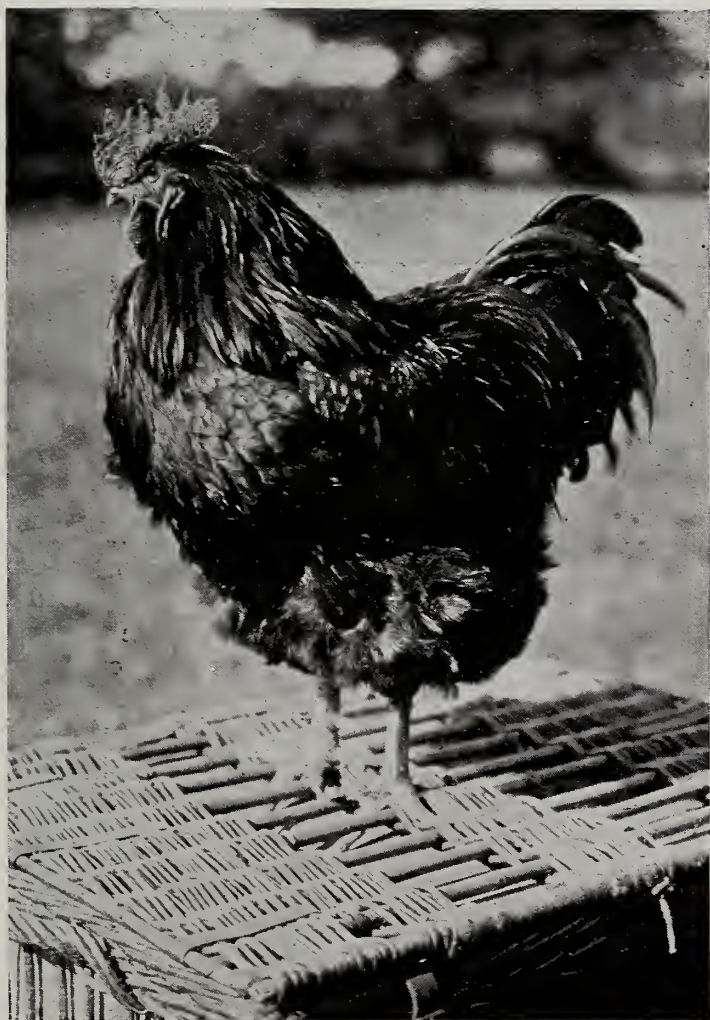
and comb, standing on a particularly fine pair of short, white legs. This bird is to be kept for mating next season with some of the best pullets; he will also again appear in the show-pen. Another pen contained the reserve Buff cockerel at the Royal Show in 1910. He, again,



is a rich Buff right through to the skin, with excellent legs, and in splendid condition; he fully bears out the adjective used in his description by the Press at the time of his winning at the show in question. Next door we were shown the winner at Ripon—a perfectly shaped bird, but rather on the small side. Next we had the pleasure of seeing the founder of Mr. Cussons's magnificent flock—a huge, massive Buff, of which the owner is justifiably very proud. Bred by Mr. Cussons in 1909, it won in that year first and cup at Hayward's Heath, first and medal at Clown in Gloucestershire, and first and special at Galgate. The following year it had the supreme honour of winning first prize at the Palace. We were delighted with a pen containing fifteen Buff pullets, all cockerel breeders, which had that day been selected for the purpose from among upwards

for Mr. Cussons's selective powers, since they all possessed the particular characteristics for which he is striving.

In a run near by there were seventeen early-hatched Buff cockerels, among which were three



**BUFF ORPINGTON COCK BELONGING TO MR. CUSSONS.**  
First and Special for best bird at Stanhope.

*[Copyright.]*

of one hundred birds, which, to the eye of the novice, all appeared identical. Mr. Cussons, however, thought differently, and the care taken by him would appear quite needless by the uninformed. The fifteen in question speak well



**WHITE WYANDOTTE PULLET.**

First and Special at Driffeld.

*Copyright.*

from last year's Palace winner, and, if appearance at this stage goes for much, it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that some of them, too, may figure prominently at the same important fixture. Adjoining this pen were twenty Buffs, April hatched, several of which will be heard of in the back-end shows. Mr. Cussons has certainly deserved the fame he has gained for the quality of his Buff Orpingtons. He is a strict observer of the rule of going first for type and afterwards for colour. The White Wyandottes and Black Orpingtons also deserve special mention. The former are splendid in colour, with nice, soft feather, which keeps the colour much better than the harder-feathered strains of Whites. We saw a pullet, very promising in appearance, which is being kept for the great Yorkshire Show at Rotherham—with what success will be known before these notes appear. The Black Orpingtons are massive, deep, and rich in colour, and certainly looked remarkably handsome. We would imagine they



## TRADE SUPPLEMENT

were excellent subjects for the photographer, being so "lumbering" and too lethargic to move. To describe all would be quite impossible, since, with dazzling rapidity, we were shown pen after pen of cocks, cockerels, hens,

whenever they are available. For their accommodation he has special sitting sheds, 36ft. by 14ft. wide, with separate sitting boxes placed all around the room. Next to these are arranged the bathing and drying-rooms,



A NEAR VIEW OF A BREEDING-PEN.

*[Copyright.]*

and pullets of long pedigree, excellent type, and great performances. It was quite a relief to come across a pen of Game Bantams, beautiful little things, finely drawn in bone, and as sprightly as the Black Orpingtons were massive and lazy. Before leaving the question of stock it would be well to note that the following prizes have been won this year: At Stanhope four firsts, two specials, four seconds, three thirds; at Driffild six firsts, four specials, four seconds, and four thirds; the same day, at Ripon, first for Buff cockerel and second for pullet.

Mr. Cussons hatches principally by incubators, and he has an excellently-arranged room fitted up for the purpose. It is a room of equable temperature, which is a very important matter. The brooders are constructed after his own pattern, and are made upon the premises. He is of opinion that the majority of brooders are much too small in their sleeping accommodation, and he has therefore made his on a larger scale—namely, 4ft. square for sleeping-room and correspondingly large in the run. While artificial methods are adopted Mr. Cussons does not by any means despise broody hens, and they are used

which are well equipped with all necessary impedimenta.

The method of feeding is to combine the "dry" and "soft." The soft food consists of biscuit-meal, ground oats, and middlings, mixed with scalding water, given twice a day. The dry food is also supplied twice, and it contains the usual seeds of which these mixtures are composed. This method is continued until the birds are old enough to take small wheat and short oats. Whether I entirely agree with Mr. Cussons's method of feeding is a matter of no moment; but I may state that most of his culled cockerels realised 3s. 10d. each in Thirsk Market, so he doubtless has the knack of acquiring size.

In addition to his many enterprises Mr. Cussons is a maker of poultry foods and agent for others. Himself a miller and corn dealer, he has great opportunities in this direction. Mr. Cussons is very enthusiastic and persevering in anything he undertakes. This will be patent when it is known that he has only been in the Fancy for three years, yet in this short time he has won recognition throughout the country not only for the quality of his fowls but by his straightforward dealing.

F. W. P.



## MARKETS & MARKETING.

### Week Ending June 24.

The markets were fairly brisk, owing to the fact that supplies were somewhat restricted, producers apparently holding back their goods until the Coronation. The supply of ducklings and goslings was good, while the birds were of excellent quality. New-laid eggs were pretty abundant, and prices did not range particularly high.

### Week Ending July 1.

The "Coronation" markets were somewhat disappointing to those who expected to realise high prices for their produce. The demand was certainly extremely good, but so also was the supply, with the result the market was very flat, especially towards the close of the day preceding the Thursday. Ducklings were plentiful and prices fell a good deal; goslings, too, were pretty abundant, and they were, generally speaking, of excellent quality. New-laid eggs were fairly scarce, realising a good figure.

### Week Ending July 8.

The great heat affected the markets rather unfavourably, causing prices to fall somewhat. Dealers are afraid of keeping their stock too long, and are thus willing to dispose of them at a lower figure. Many of our foreign supplies are held up at the ports of lading owing to the sailors' and dockers' strikes. For this reason foreign produce sold at a rather high price. The trade in new-laid eggs was firm.

### Week Ending July 15.

The continuance of the intense heat had a bad effect on the markets, and exceptionally low prices were obtained. In some cases—as a matter of fact, in very many cases—the producers were to blame entirely for the poor prices their goods procured, since the preparation of the birds was seriously at fault. During very hot weather special precautions are necessary regarding the final preparation and dispatch of the birds. For one thing they should be starved for at least thirty-six hours, while they should always be sent away overnight. The egg market remained unchanged.

## AN INTERNATIONAL LAYING COMPETITION.

AMERICA has been slow in adopting laying contests. Now, however, one is announced. This is due to the enterprise of the *North American*, of Philadelphia, which has arranged the holding of a year's competition from November 1 ensuing. The venue will be at the Storrs Agricultural College, Connecticut, a very suitable position, and where poultry has received a large amount of attention, first under Professor C. K. Graham, and since his transference to Hampton, under Professor F. H. Stoneburn. The term "international" refers to the fact that Canadian entries will be received, but entries will be accepted from any part of the world. It would add to the interest if some of the best-laying English and Australian strains com-

peted, though whether these would do as well in America as in their native habitat is questionable.

A highly representative committee has been formed to control the contest, consisting of Messrs. G. A. McDevitt and F. V. L. Turner, of the *North American*; Professor F. H. Stoneburn, of Storrs; T. F. McGrew, of Scranton, Pa.; Dr. P. T. Woods, of Chicago; Dr. N. W. Sanborn, of Syracuse; Dr. A. A. Brigham, of South Dakota College; Professor Horner Jackson, of the Pennsylvania State College; and Professor F. C. Elford, of the Macdonald College.

An entirely new plant is to be erected to accommodate the contestants, consisting of 100 pens. "Each entry to consist of six pure-bred females, either hens or pullets, no males to be included. Five layers constitute a competing pen, the extra female being held in reserve as a substitute in case of death or incurable malady." So far as provided by the rules none of the birds entered will be mated, so that the eggs will not be used for breeding purposes—a sensible arrangement.

The entry fee is \$25 (£5), and prizes consisting of cash, handsome cups, and other valuable trophies will be awarded for highest pen-total of eggs, highest individual, greatest number of eggs produced each month, etc., etc. The rules do not state, however, whether the awards will be based on total number of eggs laid or the value in accordance with the time when produced.

## INTER-SCANDINAVIAN POULTRY SHOW.

ON June 23 and 24 last was held the first Inter-Scandinavian Poultry Show at Copenhagen. Fine weather tempted large crowds, including many foreigners, to visit the Rosenborg Gardens, where the entries were exhibited in ground pens lining both sides of the shady walks. The general arrangements of the show were excellent, while an open-air café and the excitement of several lotteries catered for people's amusement.

The prevailing breed shown was undoubtedly the Leghorn. Introduced forty years ago from Germany, both White and Brown varieties have since been bred extensively as well as used for improving the national "Landhen." Judging from the number of exhibits, Buff Orpingtons have also gained favour, many of the finest male birds being English bred. As regards quality, first place must be given to the Wyandottes, although the stencilled varieties from an English show point were poor in marking.

Speaking generally, it may be said that varieties have not been bred true to type and have consequently developed coarseness and variability. In connection with this, however, it must be remembered that throughout Scandinavia chief stress is laid on utility. Some interesting particulars were given indoors, showing the progress made in Denmark with regard to technical instruction in poultry-keeping. There are now forty Control Centres and five travelling instructors supported by the State, and Herr Kock, who has charge of this work, regards the present staff as far too small.

It is interesting to note that, in his estimation, Ireland is the ideal poultry-rearing country of Europe, but that England still holds first place in breeding.

S. BURTT MEYER.



# TABLE OF PRICES REALISED FOR HOME, COLONIAL, AND FOREIGN POULTRY, GAME, AND EGGS DURING THE FOUR WEEKS ENDING JULY 22, 1911.

## ENGLISH POULTRY—LONDON MARKETS.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES REALISED DURING THE MONTH.			
	1st Week.	2nd Week.	3rd Week.	4th Week.
Surrey Chickens .....	3/0 to 5/0	2/9 to 4/6	3/0 to 4/6	2/6 to 4/0
Sussex " .....	3/0 " 5/0	2/9 " 4/6	3/0 " 4/6	2/6 " 4/0
Yorkshire " .....	1/9 " 3/6	1/9 " 3/6	1/9 " 3/6	1/6 " 3/6
Boston " .....	1/9 " 3/6	1/9 " 3/6	1/9 " 3/6	1/6 " 3/6
Essex " .....	1/9 " 3/6	1/9 " 3/6	1/9 " 3/6	1/6 " 3/6
Capons .....	5/0 " 6/0	5/0 " 6/0	5/0 " 6/0	4/6 " 5/0
Irish Chickens .....	1/6 " 3/0	1/6 " 3/0	1/6 " 2/9	1/3 " 3/0
Live Hens .....	1/6 " 2/6	1/6 " 2/6	1/6 " 2/6	1/4 " 2/3
Aylesbury Ducklings ..	1/9 " 3/6	1/9 " 2/9	2/0 " 3/0	1/6 " 2/9
Ducks .....	1/6 " 2/6	1/6 " 2/6	1/6 " 2/6	1/3 " 2/0
Geese .....	4/6 " 5/6	4/0 " 6/0	4/6 " 6/0	4/6 " 5/6
Guinea Fowls .....	2/6 " 3/6	2/6 " 3/6	2/6 " 3/6	2/6 " 3/6
Pe.its Poussine .....	1/4 " 1/8	1/4 " 1/9	1/4 " 1/9	—

## ENGLISH GAME—LONDON MARKETS.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES REALISED DURING THE MONTH.			
	1st Week.	2nd Week.	3rd Week.	4th Week.
Grouse .....	—	—	—	—
Partridges .....	—	—	—	—
Pheasants .....	—	—	—	—
Black Game .....	—	—	—	—
Hares .....	—	—	—	—
Rabbits, Tame .....	1/0 to 2/6	1/0 to 2/0	1/3 to 2/6	1/0 to 2/6
" Wild .....	—	—	—	—
Pigeons, Tame .....	—	—	—	—
" Wild .....	—	—	—	—
Woodcock .....	—	—	—	—
Snipe .....	—	—	—	—
Plover .....	—	—	—	—

## ENGLISH EGGS.

MARKETS.	PRICES REALISED DURING THE MONTH.			
	Per 120.	Per 120.	Per 120.	Per 120.
LONDON .....	9/0 to 10/0	9/0 to 11/0	9/0 to 11/0	8/6 to 10/6
Provinces. ....	Eggs per dozen.	Eggs per dozen.	Eggs per dozen.	Eggs per dozen.
MANCHESTER ...	1/0	1/0	1/1	1/1
BRISTOL .....	0/11	1/0	1/0	1/0

## FOREIGN POULTRY—LONDON MARKETS.

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	PRICES REALISED DURING THE MONTH.			
	Chickens. Each.	Ducks. Each.	Ducklings. Each.	Geese. Per lb.
Russia .....	1/3 to 2/6	1/9 to 2/0	—	—
Belgium .....	—	—	—	—
France .....	—	—	—	—
United States of America ..	—	—	—	—
Austria .....	—	—	—	—
Canada .....	—	—	—	—
Australia .....	—	—	—	—

## IMPORTS OF POULTRY AND GAME. MONTH ENDING JUNE 30, 1911.

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	DECLARED VALUES.	
	Game.	Poultry.
Russia .....	£28	£4,244
Belgium .....	—	—
France .....	£6	£3,933
United States of America ..	—	£39
Other Countries .....	£252	£4,782
Totals .....	£286	£12,998

## IRISH EGGS.

DESCRIPTION.	1st Week.	2nd Week.	3rd Week.	4th Week.
	Per 120.	Per 120.	Per 120.	Per 120.
Irish Eggs	7/9	8/0 to 9/6	8/0 to 9/6	7/9 to 9/0

## FOREIGN EGGS.

DESCRIPTION.	1st Week.	2nd Week.	3rd Week.	4th Week.
	Per 120.	Per 120.	Per 120.	Per 120.
French ...	7/9 to 9/3	8/0 to 9/6	8/0 to 9/6	7/6 to 9/3
Danish ...	8/3 " 9/6	8/6 " 9/6	8/6 " 9/6	8/0 " 9/0
Italian ...	8/6 " 9/3	9/0 " 9/9	9/0 " 9/9	8/6 " 9/6
Austrian...	6/0 " 8/0	6/3 " 8/3	6/3 " 8/3	6/3 " 8/3
Russian ...	5/9 " 7/3	6/0 " 7/6	6/0 " 7/6	6/3 " 7/0

## IMPORTS OF EGGS. MONTH ENDING JUNE 30, 1911.

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	DECLARED VALUES.	
	Quantities in Gt. Hund.	Declared Values.
Russia .....	1,296,033	£422,360
Denmark .....	361,054	£153,115
Germany .....	12,954	£4,633
Netherlands .....	55,367	£23,976
France .....	63,639	£26,381
Italy .....	73,228	£29,167
Austria-Hungary ..	25,852	£10,266
Other Countries ..	36,938	£12,595
Totals .....	1,925,065	£682,493



## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

### Duration of Moults.

About how long do year-old hens take to complete their change of plumage, and when is the best time for the moult to take place? Is special feeding necessary during the process?—E. R. (Northbridge).

The duration of the moult varies to a considerable extent, but in a year-old hen, properly fed, you may reasonably allow two months to complete the process. Early moulting is a distinct advantage and should be encouraged; feeding on a low diet will appreciably hurry it on. Nothing of a fattening nature should be given during the period, but everything of a strengthening character, such foods as pea or beanmeal, meat scraps, middlings, oats, and wheat, and any quantity of green food. These are all nitrogenous, and materially assist in the formation of the new feathers.

### Egg-Eating.

Will you kindly tell me what is a good cure for a hen eating her eggs?—R. C. T. (Hexham).

There are several ways of breaking hens from this very vicious habit. One of the most effective is to use a nest so constructed that the eggs roll out of sight as they are laid. There are several poultry appliance makers who supply such nests at a reasonable price. We have testimony as to the efficacy of the American method of treatment, which is as follows: Put the hens so addicted in a run by themselves and feed them with nothing but egg-shells—the two half shells from which the contents have been removed. After two or three days of this diet the hens are so surfeited that eggs no longer appeal to them. Cheap cooking eggs may always be obtained for the purpose.

### Roosting in the Open Air.

I have lately seen a poultry-farm with a number of perches in the open, and shall be glad to know if this is necessary, and why?—W. H. S. T. (Little Bealings).

The provision of outside perches is so generally advantageous that it may almost be said to be necessary, and it certainly is so in some circumstances. You may satisfy yourself upon this point by careful observation of the habits of fowls, and you will no doubt remember having seen them perching on rails and farm-gates. The advantages on the score of health are obvious in wet weather when there is no adequate shed accommodation; and even in summer, when the early morning dew is heavy, fowls will readily avail themselves of such positions. After feeding in the early morning they like to use an outside perch, particularly if placed in the sun, and will stand and preen their feathers until the dew has been to a great extent evaporated.

### Starting Poultry-Farming.

I am anxious to take a small farm next September, and I thought of commencing poultry-farming in a small way. There are about five acres of good meadow land and one and a half acres of wood. The land is situated about twenty-two miles

from London on a main line, so what do you think would be the best branch for me to take up? I intend to run the farm myself, at any rate, at first. I should like to try egg-production, but I know very little about it. Would five acres be enough to start on, and if so what breeds should I keep, and how many should I start with? Your help will be much appreciated.—W. T. (Highgate).

Many of the points raised by your query are dealt with in an article entitled "Poultry-Keeping as a Business," published in the POULTRY RECORD for May, 1909, of which it would be desirable for you to obtain a copy and study carefully. That may or may not meet your case. First and foremost it would be unwise to commence such a venture as a means of livelihood without experience, and that should be gained elsewhere than on your own farm. If, however, you have income independent of it, and only desire to add thereto, the whole aspect of affairs would be changed. Under such circumstances there is no reason why you should not ultimately succeed with knowledge gained and perseverance, but the issue is very doubtful in poultry-keeping alone if it were to be your only means of livelihood. The branch to be taken up would depend upon the district and the nature of the soil. With such information, we shall be glad to advise you further.

### Green Food.

Is green food necessary for poultry, for although mine never have any they seem to thrive satisfactorily. If it is beneficial, in what form should it be given?—"NOVICE" (Lewes).

You do not state whether your fowls are at liberty or kept in confinement? Under both conditions green food is necessary; but when they have fields over which they may roam, a sufficient supply can usually be obtained. When in confined runs, and at a time of year when greens are young and tender, they should be given to the fowls raw. When, however, difficulty is found in procuring the vegetables fresh, such roots as turnips or mangolds may be boiled and mashed up with their soft food. Some form of green food should be supplied at every period of the year if fowls are to be kept in a healthy condition.

### Artificial Incubation.

Will you please answer the following in the next issue of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD? 1. Which are the best capsules for incubators, round or square? Can I make them myself? 2. Should I get more sensitive results by using two together, instead of the usual one? 3. What are the contents of the capsules? 4. Can I recharge them myself, to save buying a new one each time they will not act?—W. W. S. (Caversham).

1. Round capsules are generally considered preferable. It is possible to make them yourself, although it is not advisable to do so, since they may be purchased very cheaply. 2. If your incubator is of the ordinary pattern, one capsule only is necessary. 3. The contents of the capsule are generally supposed to be a combination of mercury and alcohol, but this is naturally a trade secret. 4. It is inadvisable to attempt to recharge the capsules yourself. One capsule, with care, will last for several years. Regulate the machine, as far as possible, by the size of the lamp flame, thus preventing a too severe tax on the capsule.



### Various.

(1) What is the right amount of food to give to (a) a pair of Red-caps; (b) six Bantams. (2) (a) Do Black East Indian Ducks pair? (b) If Black East Indian and Rouen ducks and drakes were put together would the two breeds keep pure? (3) Are the Red and Brown Sussex the same? (4) Have Red-caps any claim in competition with other varieties in novice classes?—R. S. C. (Clifton, Bristol.)

(1) It is impossible to give any stated amount. Examine them periodically, and if too lean increase rations; if too fat reduce them. (2) (a) Yes. (b) No. (3) Yes. (4) Yes.

### Short Replies.

F. J. N. R. (Bracknell).—1894.

R. S. P. (Bolton).—Liver disease.

W. R. M. (Ross).—The Aylesbury.

W. C. B. (Aysgarth).—The Plymouth Rock.

P. C. (Rotherham).—We cannot entertain your offer.

M. T. (Sudbury).—1. Yes. 2. Yes. 3. We do not know.

E. J. M. (Kilmarnock).—This is the wrong time of year.

H. M. R. (Leith).—1. From 19 to 21 days. 2. 30 days.

M. T. (Bray).—We think so, but we cannot say positively.

CURIOUS (Potter's Bar).—The details you give are much too meagre.

T. B. (Widford).—We would refer you to our advertisement columns.

R. M. (Preston).—We have forwarded the letter as requested, in spite of the fact that you omitted to enclose a stamp.

### An Honour for Mr. Tamlin.

Mr. Tamlin, of 40, St. Margaret's, Twickenham, London, the maker of the well-known Tamlin Incubator, has just achieved a great success. In the latest Hatching Contest, open to the world, at Lisbon, under the direction of the Central Agricultural Association of Portugal, his Incubator was awarded Gold Medal for hatching over 98 per cent. As a matter of fact, fifty-six strong and healthy chickens were hatched from fifty-seven eggs, an achievement of which anyone would be justifiably proud.

### "Rhode Island Reds."

Breeders of the Rhode Island Reds will be interested in the instructive and well illustrated book on this breed recently published by the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, Quincy, Illinois. It gives the history and origin of the Reds, tells how to select and mate, both for exhibition and utility qualities, how to judge by comparison and score card, illustrating the Drevensstedt comparison card, and covers all subjects pertaining to their successful breeding. The book is edited by D. E. Hale, judge and breeder, and the contributors of articles are the leading breeders and judges of the country. It is fully illustrated by Messrs. Sewell, Schilling, and Burgess. The text and illustrations conform to present standard requirements.

### EGGS TO SERVE COLD.

#### EGGS À LA CRÈME.

Boil the requisite quantity of rice until quite tender, being careful to keep the grains distinctly separate; when done enough drain thoroughly, add a seasoning of salt and white pepper, and a pat of fresh butter, mix well, and form into a nest shape on a flat dish. Have ready some cold, hard-boiled eggs from which the shells have been carefully removed, and arrange these in neat order in the nest; coat them thickly with a cream sauce prepared as below, ornament the rice with a sprinkling of sifted egg yolk and the white of the egg, cut in Julienne shreds; place a border of fresh parsley sprigs round the base, and the dish will present a very dainty appearance indeed.

#### TO MAKE THE SAUCE.

Melt an ounce of fresh butter in a saucepan and stir into it until quite smooth an ounce of fine flour, then add half a pint of cream or milk to which has been added the yolks of two fresh eggs, and continue to stir briskly until the sauce just reaches boiling point; then add sufficient liquid cochineal or carmine to colour it a pretty salmon-pink, and use as directed.

#### A FLOWER SALAD.

Prepare in the usual way a dainty green salad, and moisten it well with a creamy mayonnaise sauce or dressing; then pile it up high in the salad bowl and ornament it as follows: Boil some eggs hard, and when cold cut up the whites into thin strips of equal length and place the yolks in a basin. Season the latter pleasantly, moisten them slightly with cream or liquid butter, pound to a smooth paste, then make up into small round balls. Thoroughly wash and dry some fresh turnip-radishes and cut away the leaves, allowing about an inch of the stalks to remain; cut a tiny morsel off the other end, and with a small, sharp knife slit the red skin in several places a little more than half-way down and gently bend the pieces back, thus making a capital imitation of half-opened tulips. Have ready also some fresh nasturtium flowers with some of their own small leaves. Round the base of the salad arrange a ring of the tiny egg yolk-balls and surround each one with several strips of the egg whites, thus making them look like large daises; then arrange another ring of the radishes, leaving a little of the salad to show between; and last of all, place the nasturtiums, with their leaves, on the top. When nicely done the appearance of this dish is simply delightful, and never fails to tempt even the most capricious appetite.

#### EGGS IN THE NEST.

Boil hard the requisite number of eggs; when cold remove the shells and cut the eggs in halves lengthways; put the yolks into a basin with a small proportion of finely-minced boiled ham, a seasoning of salt and pepper, and sufficient fresh butter or salad dressing to just nicely moisten the whole; then mix smoothly and return to the egg whites; place the latter together again and press them firmly so as to make them adhere and look as though they had never been cut. Prepare a well mixed and finely-shredded green salad, and arrange it



on a flat dish, forming it into several little hollows ; in each of these put a small quantity of salad dressing, and place an egg on top.

#### EGG PATTIES.

Make some moderately rich, light pastry, and roll it out about a quarter of an inch in thickness, then use it to line out some rather deep patty tins, which have been slightly greased in readiness ; fill these with raw rice to keep them in shape, and bake in a well-heated oven. When done enough, gently shake out the filling and place the patty cases on a sieve to cool. Boil hard some perfectly fresh eggs, and when they are cold remove the shells and chop the eggs rather finely ; add a pleasant seasoning of salt and pepper and sufficient mayonnaise, anchovy, or lobster sauce to moisten slightly ; then mix well and fill the patty cases with this dainty preparation, piling it rather high in the centre. Ornament the tops of the patties with a tasteful arrangement of bright-red boiled beetroot and French beans cut in tiny thin strips, and serve on a flat dish covered with a fancy dish paper.

#### CUSTARD EGGS.

Remove very carefully the contents of some fresh eggs through a tiny hole made in one end of each, and use them to make a rich creamy custard sufficiently thick to be quite solid when cold. If the eggs are intended for a savoury dish season well with salt and pepper and flavour according to taste. While still liquid return to the shells by means of a small funnel, either paper or metal, and set the eggs in a cool place until the contents are quite firm. When required remove the shells as gently as possible, and serve the eggs neatly arranged on a bed of well mixed, pleasantly-seasoned green salad. If, however, the custard eggs are preferred as a sweet, add a little fine white sugar and a few drops of some favourite flavouring, and serve them on a purée of either fresh or cooked fruit such as strawberries, raspberries, currants, &c. When fresh fruit cannot be had, bottled or preserved fruit will answer the purpose admirably.

#### Poultry for Small Holders.

A crofter in the Island of Eday, Orkney, who is a keen co-operator (writes Mr. John Drysdale in the *Journal* of the National Poultry Organisation Society), recently submitted a balance-sheet for the past year, from which it appears that his net profit from poultry produce alone equalled fully three times the entire rental of his croft. The gross sales of poultry produce, including a few pounds' worth consumed by his own household, amounted to £37, whilst the cost of maintaining his fowls, including purchased feeding-stuffs, and produce grown on the croft, which was charged at market prices, amounted to £15, leaving a net profit of £22 from poultry produce on a small croft, the rental of which is £7 per annum. The number of hens kept was eighty. Of course, nothing was charged in the balance-sheet for labour, and the price credited for produce was that received at the local egg-collecting depot. The crofter in question explained that whilst he had done well, he was aware that some of his neighbours had been able to do considerably better, although they had not put their returns in figures.

#### WHITE ORPINGTON COLOUR.

IN a recent number of the *Reliable Poultry Journal* of America, a writer (Mr. George D. Black) raised a point of great interest in connection with the White Orpington—namely, whether it is possible to breed male birds of this variety which will be of the “stay white” brand. He says he has yet to see an Orpington male which is pure white, and by this he undoubtedly means one which will retain its colour after being kept under natural conditions. That the White Orpington male bird is prone to “creaminess” or even “brassiness”—some call it “sappy” or “sandy”—is a fact, although this may not be acknowledged by all of those who are interested in the variety. Nevertheless, even over here, in the country of its origin, the chalk-white plumage is not always seen on the Orpington for exhibition, and those of us who are in a position to view the subject with an open mind must admit that in the prize lists it is not altogether common to find such a specimen. When asked by Mr. Black in regard to this matter of plumage Mr. Ernest Kellerstrass—owner of the renowned “Crystal White” strain—replied that he had males which were pure white, but they were not for sale at any price ; and his explanation of the fact that the White Orpington male is prone to “brassiness” was that the variety is young and has not had time to have its plumage perfected. Now, one would imagine that the Orpington is a fowl which ought easily to be bred of a pure colour, since its white skin and white shanks would offer no obstacle to a dead-white plumage. Comparing it with the White Rock and the White Wyandotte, Mr. Black says he is compelled to question whether the white skin is not even more of a deterrent than the yellow skin in producing the pure white plumage, and suggests that it may be an excess of whiteness that is the chief bar. “It may be,” he says, “that the White Orpington is more delicately, more fragiley white than other breeds, and so more susceptible to the fading process.” The theory gives one food for thought. It must be admitted that long exposure to sun and rain is generally detrimental to the plumage of most varieties, not only white ; and in this particular instance, perhaps, the only certain way of getting the desired chalk-white of the show-pen is to keep the birds entirely out of the direct rays of the sun. The point raised is a new one, and it is worthy of discussion in the columns of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD.

W. W. B.

#### TRADE NOTICES.

##### A Correction.

In the July issue of THE ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD, when referring to “The Asbestic Hen Incubator,” made by Messrs. Robert Toope & Co., Stepney Square, Stepney, London, it was stated that “the makers claim many advantages for this incubator, among which are entire absence of danger from fire and its proof against vermin, damp and rotting, while internal changes of temperature have no effect on the external heat.” Several readers have written asking what is the meaning of the last sentence. It is, of course, a mistake, and what we meant to say was that *external* changes of temperature have no effect on the *internal*



heat. We are pleased to make this correction, for otherwise the statement is a foolish one.

We are interested to learn that since May 1st last Messrs. Toope & Co. have established agencies in France, Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Melbourne, New Zealand, West Indies and Canada, and amongst these have been distributed since May 1st 107 200-egg, 229 100-egg, 184 60-egg, 98 36-egg Asbestic Hen Incubators, also 349 Brooders, including the Idaho, Toronto, Midget, Queen, Perfect, and Success, and 78 Poultry Houses of various designs.

### At the Pageant of Empire.

Those of our readers who have seen the great Pageant of London at the Crystal Palace will have been impressed by the fine collection of animals shown in the Tableaux. The enormous amount of detailed work and organising capacity needed to marshal the many thousands of performers is perhaps scarcely realised by the audiences. Not only are the human actors to be thought of, but the feeding and housing of the hundreds of four-footed animals which are used have also to be planned. In one tableau, cattle, sheep, goats, deer, hounds, spaniels—to say nothing of bears and monkeys—all take part.

Special accommodation has been provided for them near the Pageant Grounds, and it is interesting to note that they all have their regular ration of Molassine meal daily, except the hounds and spaniels, which are kept well and healthy on Molassine dog foods.

### Mr. Tamlin's Exports.

The following is a list of W. Tamlin's exports for June, 1911: Three 60 and one 100 egg incubators, to Edw. Clarke, Turkey; one 60 and one 100 incubators, to Colombo, per order of J. Haddon and Co.; one 100 incubator and one 100 foster-mother, to Hern Wilhelm Hoettger, Germany; one 60 incubator, to Natal, South Africa, per order of Mr. A. Fass; six 60 and six 100 incubators, and six 100 foster-mothers, to H. Mascarenhas, his agent for Portugal; one 100 incubator and one 60 Sunbeam foster-mother, to H. Beresford, Transvaal, South Africa; ten 100 and six 60 incubators, and five 60 foster-mothers, to Fernand Colman, his agent for Belgium; one 60 incubator and one 60 foster-mother, to Mons. Engel-Gros, Switzerland; six 100 Nonpareil foster-mothers and six 100 Sunbeam foster-mothers, to Messrs. Chandler, Melbourne, agents for Victoria, Australia; one 60 incubator and one 60 foster-mother, to P. Ives, Algeria; one 100 incubator, also one 60 incubator, and one 100 foster-mother, to C. Double, Austria-Hungary; one 100 incubator, three 60 incubators, and three 30 incubators, to G. Barelli, his agent for Italy.

## SUMMER RAILWAY ARRANGEMENTS.

### A Perfect Place for a Holiday.

It is one of the signs of the times that in the most lovely parts of this beautiful little kingdom of ours, where the quiet hillsides and the tree-domed lanes have hitherto been sacred to the pedestrian or the horse-driven vehicle, the whirring motor-car should speed its way towards the glories of Nature about which the poets of several centuries have so often sung. The average tourist cannot nowadays afford the hours which a long coach-drive necessitates; in his short holiday he wishes to see all he can.

The establishment of motor-car and motor

char-à-banc services has proved a blessing to him, and by their aid he can go farther afield in a shorter space of time than ever he could before. Mention only one locality: Killarney and Glengariff. You can, thanks to the enterprise of the Great Southern and Western Railway, breakfast in Cork, lunch in Glengariff, have tea at Parknasilla, where you must linger awhile. It is the most beautiful spot in "this delectable district." Thence to Killarney. And yet all the wonderful panorama of world-famous scenery is not passed too quickly to be hailed with delight and appreciation. There are spots where, maybe, you would linger. The prescient wisdom of the authorities has placed a fine hotel within easy reach. At Parknasilla, where the traveller ought certainly to stay awhile; at Waterville, Caragh Lake, Kenmare, and Killarney, accommodation of the best class is available, and it is to be noted that the railway company issue combined rail and hotel tickets.

New stretches of road have been embraced in the motor services, and as the vehicle carries the traveller rapidly on to his destination the charms of Ireland's fascinating landscapes are revealed at every turn of the road. Along lanes densely hung with luxurious foliage, with the outline of the blue hills faintly pencilled above the horizon; beside the swiftly flowing rivers or rushing mountain torrents; or at the fringe of the lakes themselves—the journeys which may be accomplished by these motor services are such as endure in the memory.

### Shakespeare's Country.

Now is the time to see Stratford-on-Avon in all the glory of its natural beauty and visit Shakespeare's birthplace, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, and the many places of interest in the neighbourhood. The Great Central Railway is offering special facilities every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday for an attractive day tour through Shakespeare's country, embracing Stratford-on-Avon, Warwick, Guy's Cliffe, Kenilworth, and Leamington by express train leaving Marylebone at 10 a.m., and on arrival at Stratford-on-Avon by private automobile to the places named. The tour covers 196 miles rail travel and 33 miles motor drive through typical English scenery and most historical country in less than nine hours, and passengers return to London before 7 p.m., in time for dinner. The inclusive fare is only 11s. 6d., and such a tour should not only appeal to American, Colonial, and Continental visitors, but also to those residing in and around London who wish to see the Shakespeare country expeditiously and economically. A postcard sent to Publicity Bureau, 216, Marylebone Road, N.W., will bring you full particulars.

### Holidays in the North.

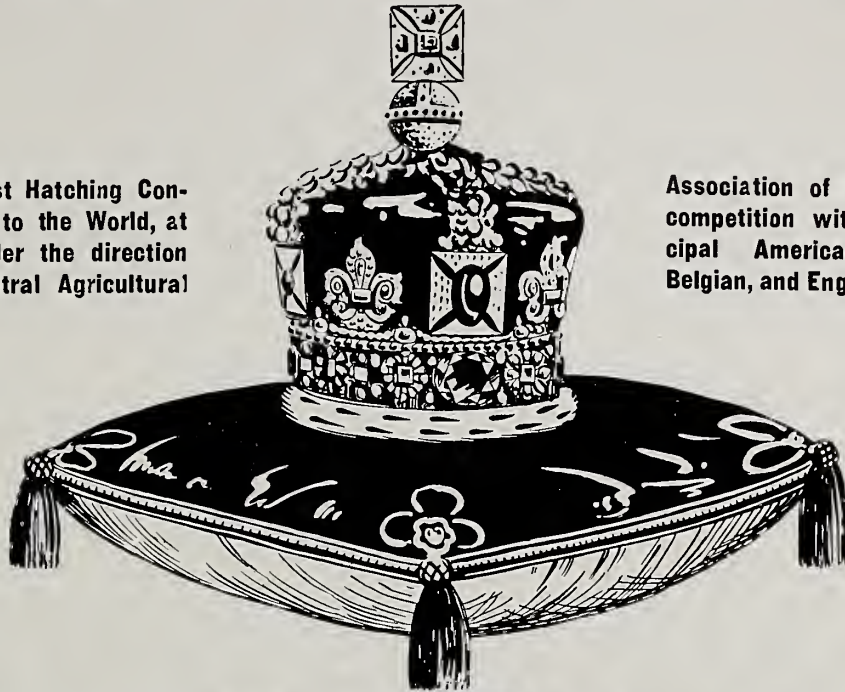
The summer time-tables of the Great Northern Railway Company contain several important additions to the services from London. For Scotland additional restaurant-car expresses leave King's Cross at 9.50 a.m. and 11.20 a.m., also a sleeping-car express at 11.45 p.m. for Edinburgh and Glasgow. An additional sleeping-car express will also leave King's Cross at 7.55 p.m. (Saturday nights excepted) for the Highlands and West Highlands. The present 8 p.m. sleeping-car



# CROWNS ALL

In the latest Hatching Contest, open to the World, at Lisbon, under the direction of the Central Agricultural

Association of Portugal, in competition with the principal American, French, Belgian, and English makers,



# TAMLIN'S INCUBATOR TAMLIN'S

WAS AWARDED

## GOLD MEDAL

FOR HATCHING OVER 98 per cent.

(56 Chicks from 57 Eggs).

Here it should be noted the TAMLIN INCUBATOR again proves itself the "Champion Hatcher of the World." Moreover, it must be remembered the Tamlin has won every Hatching Competition in the World for the last 18 years. In the above-named Hatching Contest the Tamlin has beaten all its previous magnificent records in Hatching Competitions, which were the World's Best—viz., 96 per cent. in the Belgian Hatching Contest, in competition with 43 other makers, and 95 per cent., under Government test, in the Australian Hatching Contest. These records are not mere hearsay, but results that are authentic, and in each case the veracity is backed up by the respective Governments.

Let us send you our Catalogue of this Wonderful Hatcher, together with 250 different Appliances for Poultry Keepers, all of which are profusely illustrated, and which brings practically our showrooms to your very door. Send to-day just a postcard; a copy will be mailed to you free, and post free, by return.

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THE LARGEST INCUBATOR AND POULTRY APPLIANCE MANUFACTURER IN THE WORLD.



express from King's Cross has been re-timed, and will leave at 8.15 p.m. The services to the North-East Coast watering-places will be improved by the provision of a through restaurant-car Yorkshire Coast express, leaving King's Cross at 1.5 p.m., reaching Scarborough at 5.49 p.m. and Whitby at 6.35 p.m. A through express will also leave King's Cross at 11.25 a.m. every Friday and Saturday for Bridlington, Filey, and Scarborough, while a connection will be given off the 5.30 p.m. train from King's Cross, reaching Scarborough at 10.12 p.m. and Whitby at 11.3 p.m. For the Norfolk Coast resorts a through Norfolk Coast express will leave King's Cross at 1.5 p.m., arriving at Sheringham at 4.39 p.m. and Cromer at 4.53 p.m. The 1.40 p.m. luncheon-car express will be divided, and will run as follows: 1.40 p.m. for York, Harrogate, &c., as at present, and at 2 p.m. for Nottingham, Sheffield, and Manchester.

### Some Attractive Trips.

In the "Tourist and Excursion Programme" just issued by the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company will be found announced cheap week-end tickets to be issued every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to all places on the South Coast, from Hastings to Portsmouth inclusive, and to the Isle of Wight, also to Dieppe, the Parisian's favourite seaside resort on the Normandy Coast, with its handsome Casino, marine promenade, fine golf links, and good roads for cycling. In connection with the Paris services *viâ* the Newhaven, Dieppe, and Rouen Royal Mail route, tickets are issued for tours in France (including Normandy and Brittany, the Loire Valley and Pyrenees), Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany, Tyrol, Black Forest, &c., while frequent cheap trips will be run to the Turin Exhibition. Cheap day excursions are also run on Sundays and Mondays to Brighton, Hove, Worthing, Arundel, Littlehampton, Bognor, Midhurst, Portsmouth, and the Isle of Wight, also to Seaford, Eastbourne, Bexhill, St. Leonards and Hastings on Mondays, and on Sundays to Pulborough and Amberley. Cheap day tickets to Brighton and Worthing are announced to be issued daily by "The Southern Belle" train, consisting of luxuriously-appointed Pullman cars. Cheap return tickets are issued daily to Epsom, Ashstead, and Leatherhead.

### For Business Men.

A large number of people consider smelling salts as only useful for weak-minded women and effeminate men. But a business man knows that after an hour or two's work in a close and stuffy office a whiff or two of a really good reliable smelling salts does much to clear the head and the brain for further business efforts. It is, therefore, no uncommon thing to find on the table of the strenuous brain worker a bottle of Crown Lavender Salts preparation, which is eminently adapted for giving fresh vigour to the mind and clearing the head of that stuffy feeling which comes over men continually using their brain. All chemists sell the excellent preparations of the Crown Perfumery Co., all specialities of which are easily recognised by the design of a crown on the stoppers of such bottles as the Smelling Salts, Crab Apple Blossom Scent, &c.

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*Any of the following books will be supplied at the prices named. Cash must always accompany orders.*

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**Incubators and their Management.** By J. H. SUTCLIFFE. Fifth Edition. Illustrated. Price, post free, 1/2.

**Lett's Poultry-Keeper's Account Book.** Edited by LEWIS WRIGHT. Cr. 8vo. Post free in the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and foreign countries, 2/8.

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